

Sharp decline in oil imports helps Britain to £31m surplus

Britain had a provisional surplus on its current account of £31m last month, a sharp improvement on the freakish deficit of £13m in January. A deficit of £18m on actual trading was more than offset by a £220m surplus on "invisibles" such as tourism. Imports for the month were down £383m and there

was a big drop of £104m in oil imports. The figures brought heavy buying of sterling and the Bank of England intervened to hold down the parity of the pound. However, exports fell in volume terms in February by 2 per cent, with heavy falls in some sectors.

Heavy buying of sterling

By David Wicks
Economics Correspondent
Britain's current account has returned to surplus last month, a sharp improvement on the deficit of £13m in January. A deficit of £18m on actual trading was more than offset by a £220m surplus on "invisibles" such as tourism. Imports for the month were down £383m and there

which £104m was accounted for by the drop in oil imports. Two factors were at work here almost certainly and it is quite likely that a third played a part. The first was the fact that the oil import figure had also been expected to decline because there had been considerable speculative stockpiling to beat the price rise by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The third possible restraining factor is the general flatness of the economy, which would make any sharp increase in imports hard to explain. Since the stabilization of the pound has led to import prices not rising as fast as last year, the fact that the volume of imports fell back led to a sharp drop in the total cost of what we buy abroad.

Much more worrying than this is that exports actually fell in volume terms in February by 2 per cent, with dramatic falls in some sectors. The troubled motor industry had a 94 per cent fall in the volume of its exports during the three months ending in

February, and manufacturers which traditionally form the backbone of our exports, in volume terms during the same period by only 1 per cent — well below the Government's hopes.

Although the steadying of the pound means that export prices in sterling are no longer rising as fast as last year, there is still no real sign of any export-led recovery to take the heavy export sector out of recession.

The current consensus seems to be that exports can be expected to rise but that the lag between a rise in export prices and a boost in total sales overseas is longer than used to be thought likely. However, there is no doubt about two strongly positive influences working on the balance of payments.

One is the growing surplus on invisibles, which has risen sharply as devaluation has increased the sterling worth of foreign earnings and lured more tourists to Britain.

The second bonus comes from the growing production of North Sea oil, which is already reducing the country's import bill.

The view westwards from the top of the 600ft National Westminster Tower, in the City of London, which was topped out yesterday. The £72m building will take two more years to complete.

Court ruling setback to Bonn nuclear energy plans

Bonn, Jan van der Vat

A West German court today made an unexpected ruling on the country's energy future by cancelling planning permission for a nuclear power station.

The Administrative Court at Freiburg, Baden-Württemberg, thus imposed a permanent ban on the construction of the plant at Wyhl on the Rhine because it regarded safety precautions as inadequate.

Under certain conditions, a "national catastrophe" after a breakdown in the reactor could not be excluded, the judges concluded. The possibility might be very remote, but the potential consequences were so appalling that the risk was too great.

The final court of appeal, if it regarded itself as competent in such a case, could be the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe.

Whatever the outcome of the appeal or appeals, today's decision has created a precedent which could put West German nuclear energy plans, already in serious difficulties for other reasons, back for several years.

Wyhl in perspective, page 7

Bombers strike inside Belfast security fence

From Christopher Walker

Belfast
The Provisional IRA yesterday launched a series of bomb attacks against Belfast's shopping precinct, which is ringed by a 10ft steel fence and guarded by troops and civilian searchers.

Four bombs exploded at 10.15 inside the fence causing a panic. Although no one was injured, there were no reports of any damage to the premises.

The Provisional IRA's campaign against the business community continued when a public relations officer of a large electronics company in west Belfast was shot dead last night.

The shooting took place shortly after 5.30 pm as the man was leaving the premises of his company.

The company is the second largest employer in the strongly republican western district of Belfast, which has a high level of unemployment.

Censorship ruled out, page 2

Boy bitten by dog dies of suspected rabies

A boy, aged 11, who was bitten by a dog in Pakistan in January, died in Bradford Royal Infirmary yesterday of suspected rabies.

The boy, Ayub Khan, had been taken to the infirmary after falling downstairs but was sent home after X-rays. The hospital said yesterday that the boy had not been vaccinated against rabies.

Mr Shabbaz Khan, aged 39, of Neal Street, Little Horton, Bradford, said his son had been bitten by a mad dog in the West Pakistan village of Campbellpur, but the boy had not told him.

Mr Khan had been staying with his grandparents in West Pakistan and had returned to Bradford on February 13. He began to feel ill last week and on Sunday was frothing at the mouth.

Dr Michael Priestman, Bradford's community health physician, said there was no risk to the general public.

Europe gets the Tory message

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Mrs Thatcher set out her optimistic brand of Conservatism yesterday in a speech that will enthrall the new breed of Tory radical and further entrench the rightward swing of the party.

The speech by the Conservative Party leader, one of the most intellectually significant she has made since succeeding Mr Heath, was in Zurich, a city portrayed by the left as the well-spring of capitalism.

Her message was one of hope for international conservatism, drawn from British experience: "I have reason to believe that the tide is beginning to turn against collectivism, socialism, statism, dirigism, whatever you call it. And this in turn is rooted in revulsion against the sour fruit of socialist experiment."

Mrs Thatcher, who was addressing the Zurich Economic Society, said it was becoming increasingly obvious to many people who were intellectual socialists that socialism had failed to fulfil its promises, both in its more extreme forms in the communist world and in its compromise versions.

The tide flows away from failure, she said, "as it will not automatically float us to our desired destination. There have been tides before, which were not taken, opportunities which were lost, turning points which came and went."

Continued on page 2, col 3

Mr Hattersley scorns '21% inflation' charge

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

One of the most unwellcome chickens that insist on coming home to roost is Mr Hattersley's prediction of an 8.4 per cent annual rate of inflation which he tossed out just before the last general election on the basis of the latest three months figures.

Ministers spend much of their waking hours these days thinking up plausible excuses for that piece of poetic licence. So it was not surprising that Mr Hattersley, the fast-speaking Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, found himself cornered by the Tories yesterday in the Commons into admitting that, on the same basis as was used by the Chancellor, inflation was now running at 21.8 per cent.

Tories claim that the 8.4 per cent prediction had something to do with winning the last election, but yesterday, with the boot on the other foot, Mr Hattersley feigned a worthy scorn for each figure.

"For what it is worth," he said, in the tone of a man who could never contemplate anyone in his right mind making such a calculation, "the three-month annualised figure is 21.8 per cent."

Far more to the point, or rather to Mr Hattersley's liking, was the fact that over the past 12 months the inflation figure was 16.6 per cent, even though for the last three

months the retail price index increased by 5.4 per cent. Like all sensible politicians, however, Mr Hattersley was quick to see rainbows over the horizon, and he prophesied that if everyone remained resolute the rate of inflation would begin to fall in the summer and thereafter.

That, of course, if it went well, would invalidate the 21.8 per cent figure and the Secretary of State pointed out that during the past six months the increase in the retail price index was largely the result of sterling depreciation. Sterling was no longer falling, and as far as nationalised industries were concerned the Government had corrected most of the errors made by the Conservatives.

It was soon clear that it was not going to be Mr Hattersley's day. Mrs Oppenheim, from the Tory front bench, found some figures which she said showed that the rate of inflation had trebled during the past six months. To the Conservatives the Secretary of State advised calm. Mrs Oppenheim said, "I was being extraordinarily selective and her figures did not excite him as much as they seemed to be exciting her."

As for the rest, the Chancellor's December measures would be working themselves through and once a new wages round was negotiated the pot of gold would have been reached. Clearly, the sooner that moment arrived, the happier Mr Hattersley would be.

Parliamentary report, page 12

Father hijacks jet for child

Abidjan, Ivory Coast, March 14

A Spanish Iberia Boeing 747 airliner with 30 passengers and a crew of seven, hijacked by an Italian on a flight from Barcelona to Majorca, landed here this evening and was directed to the military section of the airport. It refuelled at Algiers.

The hijacker was demanding the return of his three-year-old daughter, apparently living with his former wife in Abidjan, and £26,000 ransom for the safety of the aircraft and its passengers.—AP.

British Rail will give warning of gradual rundown

The Government is to be told by British Rail management that the investment limit of £200m a year is too low to prevent a progressive rundown in track mileage in the 1980s. Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, will be present at a meeting on Monday at which British Rail management will say that the quality of services on all but 3,000 miles of the network may be seriously affected.

Leyland investment plans face revision

With British Leyland's weekly trading losses running at between £10m and £15m the group has accepted that drastic changes in its investment plans are inevitable unless there is short-term assistance from the National Enterprise Board. The number of workers laid off rose to 46,000 — half the manual workforce.

Violence in Italy

Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Italian Minister of the Interior, says that, for the first time, the country might be facing a form of political terrorism with mass student backing. The Communists are also alarmed at the weekend violence after a student's death in Bologna.

Stronger French left

The French municipal elections have strengthened the Socialist-Communist alliance, which has gained 33 towns and could take 17 more in Sunday's second ballot. Paris has proved the exception. Page 7

Student dole: Students will be able to get social security benefits this Easter after all. Page 2

Czech Charter: Text of deathbed statement by Professor Jan Patocka is brought from Prague to the West. Page 8

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BBC withdraws as host to European song contest

By Kenneth Gosling

The BBC has told the European Broadcasting Union that it has withdrawn as host to the Eurovision song contest, which was to have been staged at the Wembley on April 2.

The BBC had said earlier that it could not guarantee television transmission because of a threat of industrial action by outside broadcast cameramen.

There is now a strong possibility that the contest will have to be cancelled. The EBU is understood to have eliminated 16 countries as possible substitute hosts, leaving West Germany and Holland as the only other two countries still capable of staging the contest.

An alternative is that the competition will be reshaped. EBU has recorded in their own countries and some kind of contest staged, using recordings of each country's selection.

Britain's entry was "Rock Bottom" by Lynsey de Paul and Mike Moran.

The decision to go to southern Africa arose from Dr Owen's talks with Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, in Washington last week, although Dr Owen realized as soon as he was appointed that he would have to go to see things for himself. He will be giving up his Easter holiday as the likely dates of his tour are around April 11 to 18.

My purpose will be to have first-hand discussions with those most directly concerned", Dr Owen's statement said. "I hope that from these discussions and

National Trust pleads for time for Mentmore offer

By Philip Howard

The National Trust offers in a letter to The Times today, to take over Mentmore Towers, provided it is offered an endowment sufficient for its repair and running.

Mr D. Bole, director-general of the trust, asks for the sale to be delayed by about four months for plans to raise the money.

The Department of the Environment's offer of film, provided that private or corporate sources contribute the other half, is recorded in Lord Rosebery's latest offer, still stands. But it looks increasingly unlikely that anyone will come forward with the money before the deadline of April 5.

The National Trust has no money of its own to spend. It acquires property by gift and endowment during the donor's lifetime, free of capital transfer tax by gift, and endowment after death, also free of tax,

and with no upper limit because the trust is a heritage body; and by a property's being offered to the Treasury in satisfaction of death duties.

In the third case, if the Treasury decides that a property is of sufficient national importance, it acquires the offer and reimburses itself from the Land Fund, which it has emerged is not an actual fund but only a book entry.

The interesting incidental question is what happened to the £50m from the sale of surplus war stores allocated to the National Land Fund in 1946 as a thank-offering for victory in memory of the dead, if all that is left is a notional book entry.

The Government has already said that it would not feel justified in drawing on the national Land Fund to buy Mentmore Towers.

Letters, page 17

Goldwater links with underworld alleged

From Peter Strafford
New York, March 14

Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, the Republican presidential candidate in 1964, has been accused in a series of newspaper articles of having friendships and business alliances with leading members of the criminal underworld in his state.

In an article published today, *Newsday*, the Long Island newspaper, and other papers, say that Mr Goldwater became close friends with one of these criminal figures, whom he flew in his private aircraft, and that he intervened on behalf of another to get a lighter prison sentence for him.

The articles follow an incident last June when Mr Don Bolles, a reporter in Phoenix, was killed by a bomb planted under his car while he was investigating criminal activities in Arizona. The incident drew attention to the growing presence of big crime in Arizona and a group of 37 reporters, representing 27 different organizations, started an investigation.

Their conclusion, reported today in newspapers across the United States, is that "for close to three decades Senator Barry Goldwater, his brother Robert, and their close friend Harry Rosenzweig, former Arizona state Republican chairman, have been dominant figures in Phoenix, and most of Arizona while accepting the presence of organized crime through friendships and business alliances with mob figures."

The report gives details of the infiltration of big crime into Arizona, and particularly Phoenix. In the early days, it says, Phoenix was a small, rough-the-edge town.

"For years, prostitution and gambling ran open," it says. "A dominant figure in the gambling traffic was transplanted Chicagoan Gus Green-1320. He came to Phoenix in 1929 and set up a gambling racket in the motion picture industry."

Greenbaum, who was murdered in 1933, was a friend of both the Goldwater brothers, according to the report. He provided "plush accommodation" for them at his hotel-casinos in Las Vegas.

Another underworld figure was William Bluff, who was also murdered. Bluff, who was described as an "expert" who won an abbreviated prison term in the 1940s by testifying against some Capone henchmen in a celebrated shake-down racket in the motion picture industry.

Bluff, too, was a close friend of Senator Goldwater, whom he flew about the state in his aircraft and with whom Mr and Mrs Goldwater went on holiday on one occasion in Las Vegas. The article quotes Mr Rosenzweig as saying that Bluff once gave him \$5,000 (\$1,000), which Mr Rosenzweig put into Senator Goldwater's first Senate campaign.

Senator Goldwater refused to be interviewed while the reporters were working on the series of articles, which took about six months. He said last night that he did not want to comment, adding: "It may be the world's biggest lawsuit, so I have been very careful."

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HOME NEWS

British Rail to tell Government investment level is too low to prevent rundown in standards

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

British Rail is to tell the Government that an investment ceiling of £200m a year is totally inadequate to prevent a progressive rundown in standards and a possible reduction in track mileage in the 1980s.

The investment limit has been set until 1981, by which time both the British Railways Board and the three railway unions say the industry may be seriously run down. Although the Government has given repeated assurances that it does not want the 11,500-mile track network reduced the unions are insisting that a cut is inevitable unless there is an urgent review.

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, will attend a meeting of the British Rail joint consultative council on Monday, at which management will state that the quality of services on all but three of the 11,500-mile track network may be seriously affected.

It will point out that it will be forced to reduce standards of cleanliness, there will be fewer and slower trains, and ultimately some services will have to be withdrawn.

The unions see the board's warning as a vindication of their long-standing claims that the Government is imposing an intolerable burden on the industry and that passengers will

face rapidly rising fares and a reduced service.

The two sides of the industry will meet on Friday to discuss the latest pay claim for railway workers. The drivers' union, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) has made clear that it is opposed to a deal in line with the present £4 maximum.

There is mounting scepticism over the Government's stated intention not to cut the track mileage. The industry is being compelled to run outdated wagons and halt modernisation programmes to keep within the strict investment levels.

Tough talks are to be held today with the National Union of Railwaymen over a management plan to withdraw rail freight facilities from Hull and Grimsby docks, which the board says are losing heavily.

At Monday's talks the board will be unable to meet union demands for a categorical assurance that the size of the track network will not be cut. There are signs that a new board, set up after the arrival of Mr Peter Parker as board chairman, may be undermined.

The board will state that present investment levels are inadequate to keep pace with the rate at which the system is running down; that a progressive rundown has begun, and that track closures are ultimately unavoidable. The attendance of Mr Rodgers at the meeting is said to be coincidental, and he will not necessarily take part in discussions.

Mr Parker, in a spirited defence of the railway industry, writes in the *Journal of the National Union of Railwaymen* of the "selective political" nature of the "compulsion" to take the short course of action and build up trouble for the future.

He says: "A contract should be agreed with the Government which states quite clearly the agreed price for our services and against which our actual performance year by year can be measured and on which we can be judged fairly."

Mr Parker, who has established a greater rapport with the unions than did his predecessor, Sir Richard Marsh, states: "We want to see a more balanced and realistic approach to the one that Inter-City is too glossy and extravagant and for the businessman only."

He goes on to urge the return of freight services to British Rail control, so that British Rail can share in the growth of merchandise traffic. He wants the industry's competitive position improved by making "juggernaut" lorries pay their proper share of the damage they do to roads.

Students will get dole at Easter after all

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

About 150,000 students will qualify after all for security payments at Easter as an extra cost of at least £1m. Government attempts to prevent their claims have been thwarted by the failure to pass the Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill in time and by a decision of High Court last month.

The court upheld a student's appeal against a decision to award him reduced supplementary benefit, and in effect ruled that present practice is illegal. The Government does not intend to appeal, because the Bill will legalize the practice.

The Bill began its committee stage in the Lords yesterday and is expected to receive the Royal Assent on March 31. But Oxford and Cambridge universities began their Easter vacation yesterday and other students are expected to begin theirs before the Bill can take effect.

In the meantime the implications of the High Court decision will be followed by social security offices, as Lord Wells-Pestell, government spokesman on social services, made clear in the Lords yesterday. Under the ruling two changes must be made in the way students' claims are dealt with.

First, students will have £4 of their incomes from all sources disregarded in the same way as other claims. That means that they will be entitled to a benefit of £4 a week, even if they receive the full vacation element of their grant of £11.35 a week, the same amount as their normal entitlement to supplementary benefit. That part of the ruling means that students who did not qualify before will do so now, and if 150,000 students qualify on that ground alone, it will cost £1m in additions.

Secondly, ruling that they officers' duties will have to be altered, so that they can have it, under through benefit. Any contribution parents make in kind by providing meals or clothing will be taken into account in assessing benefit.

If the Bill is delayed further, students claiming benefit, and the extra cost might be up to £3m. When the Bill becomes law only handicapped students will have part of their income disregarded, but the amount will be reduced to £2 a week.

The student's grant system was changed at the start of the present academic year to give students a vacation element equivalent to their supplementary benefit entitlement during their Christmas and Easter vacations. The change was intended to prevent single, non-householder students from claiming benefit during the short vacations because the number doing so was growing greatly. Last Easter 170,000 students claimed benefit. It is intended to prevent students from claiming during the long summer vacation.

Arms ban forgeries checked by police

By Robert Parker

The Home Office and the Special Branch are investigating forged material purporting to come from the Anti-Apartheid Campaign against South Africa and the supply of Abdul

The forger's secretary, a House of Commons press conference yesterday, which was chaired by Mr Ian Mikardo, Labour MP for Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow.

Mr Mikardo said the forgeries were apparently intended to make people think the movement was pro-Moscow and anti-capitalist.

The South African Embassy denied last night that it was involved with the forgeries.

The forged documents reproduce an Anti-Apartheid Movement petition against arms sales to South Africa. But words are added, rejecting "Western imperialist oppression of the people of Southern Africa."

Mr Mikardo said whoever had sent out the forgeries must have intended to undermine the campaign for arms embargo, which was broadly supported by many different political groups.

Press censorship in Ulster is ruled out

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, tried last night to defuse the latest controversy over media coverage of terrorism in the province.

In an interview on the *People and Politics* programme on commercial television he ruled out press censorship and denied that the press and television needed to be re-examined for their role.

He also gave the first rebuttal of the local editors' insistence that new guidelines about coverage of terrorism.

"I talked to editors of papers in Northern Ireland about the idea," he said, "but they thought it was a bad idea. Their reaction was: it is nonsense, it cannot be operated, we have radio and television from Dublin, a nation alongside Northern Ireland."

He considered the discussion complete. "I do not believe in press censorship but what I do believe in is responsible reporting. . . . If the media are tempted to put a terrorist on television they must remember what a wave of revulsion will go through the province because of that."

Mr Mason stood by his earlier criticism of the recent BBC *Tonight* programme that alleged brutality by members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. He said it had been one-sided because the BBC had gone ahead with the broadcast after being told that no RUC spokesman could appear because the charges were subject to the force's official investigation procedure. The complaints were being looked into urgently.

Mr Mason denied that any "dirty tricks" department existed in Northern Ireland. The *Sunday Times* had accused the Army of involvement in

Callaghan phone-in date angers Opposition

By Michael Hasfield
Political Reporter

Strong representations have been made to the BBC by the Conservative leaders over the television interview with the Prime Minister on March 24.

Mr Callaghan's acceptance of an invitation to appear in the programme on that date, a week before the crucial Birmingham by-election, became known on Sunday, and last night the Liberal Party joined in the protest.

The Conservative Central Office and the Shadow Cabinet object to the date. They have no complaints against the BBC, which arranged the programme some weeks before the by-election date was announced, but they think Mr Callaghan's television appearance at that time would be unfair to other parties.

Shadow ministers recognize that the nature of the programme, in which Mr Callaghan will answer questions from viewers sitting in regional studios, hardly falls into the "right of reply" category under guidelines laid down between the political parties and the BBC, but they believe that the Government is being given an unfair advantage.

The Conservatives are suggesting that the BBC should postpone Mr Callaghan's appearance until after the by-election.

Mr Alan Beith, the Liberal Chief Whip, said last night that he had written to the BBC to ask for assurances that similar opportunities would be given to all parties in the period up to polling day.

Relevant questions: Mr Callaghan is due to appear on a *Nationwide* on March 22, when he will be interviewed by Robert MacKenzie, and Frank Bough, about his first year as Prime Minister. (Magness Gossling writes.)

Only about a dozen viewers out of thousands who are expected to telephone after his appearance will get the chance to question him for the same programme two days later. They will be selected on the basis of the relevance of the questions to the earlier interview.

That will last up to 20 minutes but there is expected to be more flexibility about the second programme. It will not be a phone-in on the lines of President Carter's, as the "right of reply" category is carefully self-imposed by the BBC studios around Westminster.

Reassure the public of nuclear schemes

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A new approach to the introduction of nuclear energy projects needing special safety and commercial considerations has been suggested by Dr James Marshall, managing director of the reactor group, Atomic Energy Authority, Risley, Cheshire. The aim is that those people interested in environmental and conservation aspects of a particular development should be represented at the early stages of a scheme.

Dr Marshall said yesterday that the idea had been discussed only informally among engineers and designers interested in proposals for the first big fast-breeder reactor power station, which the Atomic Energy Authority would like to build at Sellafield, Lancashire. The estimated cost of the project is £1,500m over 10 years, plans for CFR-1 (commercial fast reactor) have met severe opposition on the grounds of technical risks, hazards of weapon proliferation associated with the use of plutonium as the fuel for the reactor and doubts about the commercial wisdom of such an enterprise.

Dr Marshall accepts the need to answer the commercial and safety issues about a development that represents a large

advance in technology. Nevertheless his arguments for moving cautiously ahead are supported by a new report from the Royal Society, including Sir Brian Flowers, former chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, and Sir Alan Cottrell, former Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government and former of the Atomic Energy Authority. This group recommends permission to be given for necessary planning stages, without prejudicing safety and environmental difficulties to be resolved before the construction phase of CFR-1.

Dr Marshall explains the technical and commercial pitfalls of pretending that the fast-breeder reactor proposal is "just another power station. An assessment of the project had to be given, and the project had to be given a go-ahead and use, the work needed to provide special fuel, the supervision of large amounts of public money, and the ability of the industry to succeed in such a venture.

Associated ideas came out of a conference on the subject of a controversial nuclear issues, with final stages of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle, embracing provisions for expansion of the nuclear fuel cycle, including a fast breeder at Windscale, Cumbria.

Recycling: An imaginative attempt to improve the urban environment is taking place alongside the Grand Union Canal, Paddington, London. (John Young writes.)

John Young writes: "For a half a century or so, the Grand Union Canal, Paddington, London, has been a place of mud, should ground has been children's and by early cycle-scramble, and will also be rock climbing, boating on the canal, a tennis court, an open-air theatre, craft workshops, and flower and vegetable gardens. The work is sponsored by the London Environmental Committee for the Silver Jubilee.

Cut in mortgage relief urged on the Cabinet

Four ministers, including Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, spent ninety minutes yesterday with a delegation from the Labour Party's national executive which is trying to persuade the Government to restrict tax relief on mortgages in the Budget.

The delegation of 13, led by Mr Frank Allan, MP for Sefton East, said that the Government should cut the mortgage interest relief from 25 per cent to 10 per cent, and proposed a programme to take away what they see as the unfair advantage many mortgage-holders possess through inflation.

They are calling for an end to the tax relief available to people paying the higher rates of tax and propose cutting the £25,000 mortgage limit on which relief is available.

A third suggestion is to limit mortgage relief to 25 years. The executives' housing sub-committee saw house-owners with long-standing mortgages pay a much smaller proportion of income than recent buyers do.

Budget trouble for wife

Mrs Healey, wife of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, often sends her husband shopping so that he can keep in touch with prices. But she admits to having difficulty with her housekeeping budget.

"I can't budget my housekeeping regularly every week," she says. "Some weeks Denis is out to dinner three or four times, or suddenly I may have to have 45 children to tea, but I was brought up in a slum during the war, so I know how to be economical. One of my weaknesses is coffee but if the price goes on increasing I shall have to give that up."

In an article in *Woman* magazine, on marriage "to the most unpopular man in Britain," she says her other weakness is chocolate. "I hide the paper because if Denis knew, he'd guess why I was putting on weight."

Mrs Healey tries hard to keep her husband in touch with prices. On the way to their country cottage she sends him into a fish shop for half a pound of cod and half a dozen eggs.

But he was horrified by the rising cost of living recently when he gave his daughter and son-in-law new carpets, curtains and household goods. "He had not bought that kind of thing for years," she says.

"We don't live extravagantly. We may treat ourselves now and again to some trout or an avocado pear, and we do have a heavy milk bill, because Denis drinks more than a pint a day."

Mother tells of drive at gunpoint

Mrs Heather Summers, aged 40, was reading a bedtime story to her son when she heard a crash and found a car had plunged into the garden of their bungalow, it was stated at Bristol Crown Court yesterday.

From the car stepped a man with a sawn-off shotgun, it was added.

Mrs Summers said the man asked for a car and put the gun to her head. She returned to the house with her son in her back. Inside the front door were her mother, her son, Stewart, aged six, and her Alsatian dog. Elsewhere in the bungalow were her daughter, Allison, aged two months. She asked her mother for her car keys.

"I told them to get inside and to go to bed as I would not be long. I knew the gun was behind me. The man had said he had already used it once that night."

"His manner left me in no doubt that he had. I was not prepared to risk my son's life."

An 89-mile drive followed, with Mrs Summers at the wheel and the gunman in the passenger seat. The prosecution says the incident happened shortly after the gunman had shot dead a man, Robert Williams, aged 26, a van driver, has pleaded not guilty to murdering James Donald Spence, of North Street, Bedminster, Bristol, on November 29 last at the Shute Shelf filling station near Axbridge.

Mr Williams also denies possessing a sawn-off shotgun with intent to endanger life. He has pleaded guilty to kidnapping Mrs Summers from her home at Uxcomb Lodge, Stearns Drive, near Bristol, the night of the alleged murder.

Boy fails to stop BBC film on gang violence

A boy's attempt to stop a BBC *Nationwide* film on gang violence in Glasgow failed yesterday. The film showed eight youths brandishing an ornamental sword and two hatchets.

Mr Kevin Breslin, a solicitor, told Glasgow Sheriff Court that a boy, aged 14, did not know he was being filmed when he "idly picked up" a weapon.

Mr Breslin, appearing for the boy, asked for an interim interdict prohibiting the BBC from showing the film which, he said, might leave the boy under suspicion of committing a criminal offence.

Mr John Henderson, for the BBC, produced a letter from Mr Breslin's firm, which, he said, made plain that the boy had consented to the filming.

Mr Davidson, QC, said the letter was at variance with the boy's contention that he did not know he was being filmed.

The trial continues today.

Mrs Thatcher's hope for world conservatism

Continued from page 1

"It is up to us to give intellectual content and political direction to these new disaffections with socialism in practice, with its material and moral failures, to convert disillusion into understanding."

"If we fail, the tide will be lost. But if it is taken, the last quarter of our century can initiate a new renaissance matching anything in our island's long and outstanding history."

In explaining her political position Mrs Thatcher was not only setting her party against the so-called incipient collectivism of Labour governments but also reinforcing her stand against the style of Conservatism pursued by Mr Heath.

While much of that may not be new to many Conservative supporters, in making her position clear Mrs Thatcher was informing her party that there would be no diversion from the path she has chosen to lead the Tories into the next general election.

Mrs Thatcher recognized, but discounted, that "senior socialist politicians have continued to affirm their faith in the mixed economy." She explained: "But in the mixed economy, as in a cocktail, it is the mix that counts. In their favoured mix, collectivism has taken an even larger proportion."

"The words of these politicians expressed a desire for private enterprise had a major role to play in the economy. But their deeds extended government into almost every part of business life. The 'progressives' had their way."

The state sector had come to dominate the mixed economy. Its insatiable demand for finance had inhibited the operation of the market sector. Yet the public sector could live only in private enterprise on whose supplies it relied.

"This is where we now stand. But I believe that we have come to the end of the road. There is a growing realization in Britain that the 'progressives' were wrong. They are being proved wrong by the failure of the very system they advocated."

Finance the extension of socialism on so vast a scale taxation has risen to penal levels. We have all seen the results for living standards, for incentives and for enterprise for the excessive tax burden in Britain."

Britain, in the past two or three years, had provided a case study of why collectivism would not work. It showed that the "progressive" theory was not progressive. On the contrary, it proved retrograde in practice. That was a lesson democrats all over the world should heed.

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The trial continues today.

One killed, three hurt in air crash

Mr Ian Walston, of Cawdor Drive, Glenrothes, Fife, was killed when a Piper Aztec aircraft crashed near the town yesterday.

Mr David Turnbull, of Baird Road, Ratho, near Edinburgh, the pilot, and two other passengers were seriously injured.

Bad behaviour by players 'affects football crowds'

From Our Correspondent
Glasgow

The need for greater sportsmanship on the field of play rather than a "win-at-all-costs" mentality is urged in a memorandum of evidence by the Convention of the Scottish Local Authorities to the Government's working party on football crowd behaviour, set up in Scotland under the chairmanship of Mr McIlhenny, an Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office. It says that the loss of "morality" in the game has led to "confrontations and violence."

The convention, representing all regional, district and island authorities, states that bad behaviour by players is likely to affect crowds' behaviour.

"Over the years there seems

to have arisen increasing disciplinary problems with players on the field," the statement, issued in Glasgow yesterday, says. "Players have a responsibility to their supporters and to their supporters to ensure that their conduct is sportsmanlike and disciplined."

The quality of refereeing is regarded as "fairly crucial" in maintaining order both on and off the field. The report suggests that, instead of being obliged to refrain from making public comments, referees should be allowed to discuss after a match any decision that appeared to be controversial.

The report considers alcohol to be the main cause of trouble inside football stadiums, linked with the arrival of supporters' buses long before the game.


Doctor reinstated

Dr Peter Fraser Haggart, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, who was struck off 15 months ago after admitting adultery with a patient, was restored to the register by the Disciplinary Committee of the General Medical Council yesterday.

Waste 'hazard'

Bilston Pickling Ltd of Northfield Road, Wolverhampton, was fined £250 with £50 costs by Wolverhampton magistrates yesterday after admitting depositing waste on land near Midlands Road, of a kind liable to give rise to an environmental hazard.

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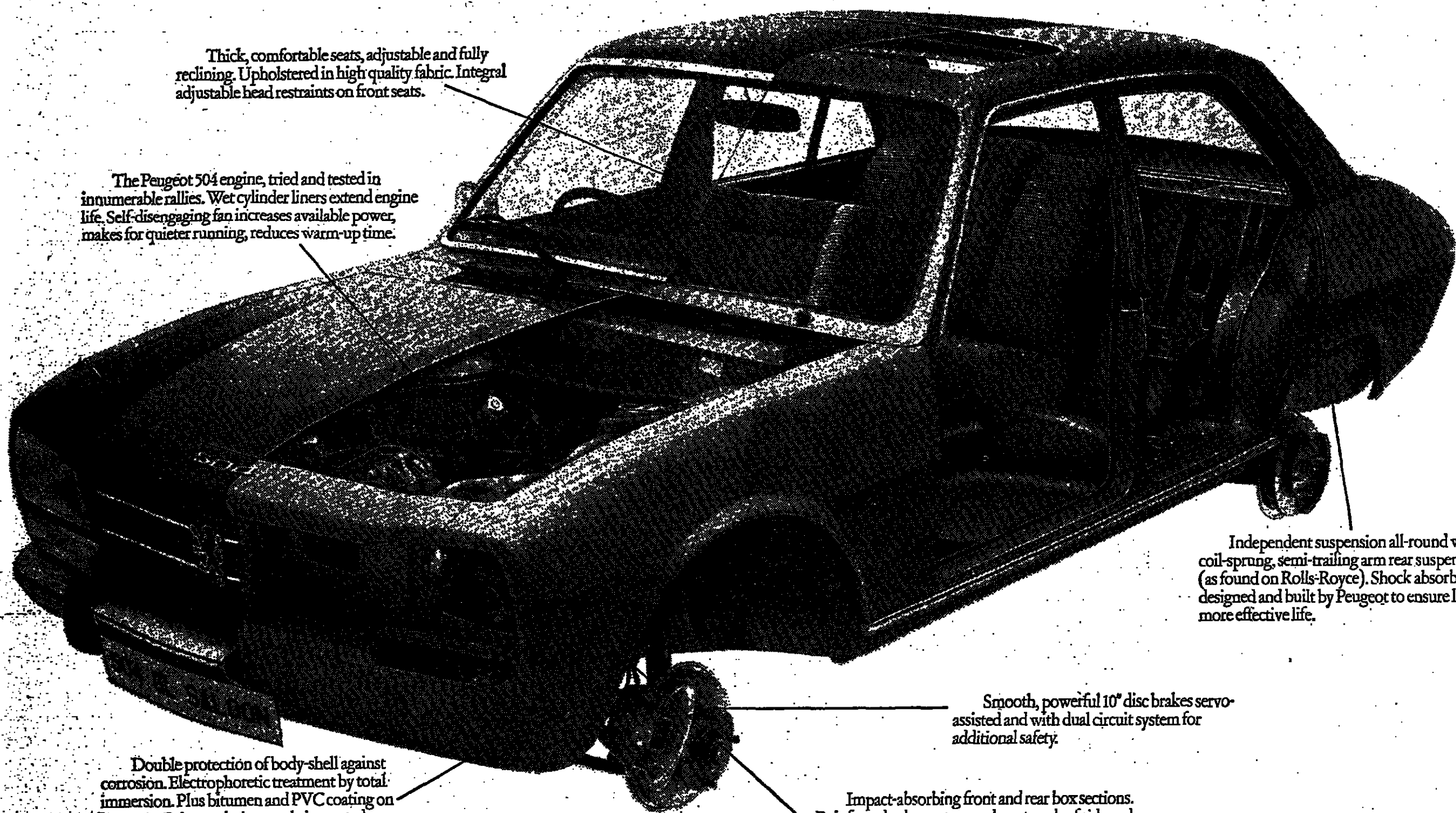
Overseas selling prices

Country	Price	Country	Price
Australia	£12.50	France	£12.50
Belgium	£12.50	Germany	£12.50
Canada	£12.50	Italy	£12.50
Denmark	£12.50	Japan	£12.50
Finland	£12.50	Netherlands	£12.50
France	£12.50	Portugal	£12.50
Germany	£12.50	Spain	£12.50
Italy	£12.50	Sweden	£12.50
Japan	£12.50	Switzerland	£12.50
Netherlands	£12.50	U.S.A.	£12.50
Portugal	£12.50	U.K.	£12.50
Spain	£12.50	W. Germany	£12.50
Sweden	£12.50	Yugoslavia	£12.50
Switzerland	£12.50		
U.S.A.	£12.50		
U.K.	£12.50		
W. Germany	£12.50		
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هكذا من العمل

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HOME NEWS

'Pay benefit to household rather than individual'

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Official figures may exaggerate the extent of income inequalities, particularly among poor families, the first report from an important study of poverty suggests today. By ignoring the number of people in each household, official statistics underestimate the amount of income available to the poorest tenth in Britain, the report says.

The authors suggest that alleviating poverty would be much cheaper and less demanding if social security was restricted to households, rather than individuals or couples, with total incomes below the poverty line. That would involve a sharp change in administrative practice and social habits because it would mean that households would have to assume financial responsibility for all their members.

The report says that when official statistics ignore the size of a household the poorest tenth have incomes of only 29 per cent of the median. But allowing for the number of adults and children in each household raises their incomes to 45 per cent of the median.

That finding is based on a statistical analysis by two economists, Mr. G. C. Fieghen and Mr. P. S. Langford, of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, whose wider study on poverty is supported by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The two economists assumed that children cost less to keep than adults, and weighted scales accordingly for their analysis. Although they used data from the 1971 Family Expenditure Survey, they are convinced that later developments have not altered the likely results that a more recent analysis would provide. They say in a note published by the Royal Statistical Society today that their method is a better guide to living standards because smaller families tend to be received in smaller households. The degree of inequality in living standards is exaggerated when looking at statistics on household incomes at their face value, and the poor are not as far behind the rest of society as appears from official figures.

The suggestion that we should return to some kind of household means test was greeted with alarm yesterday by experts who remembered the experience of it during the two world wars. Then, unemployed men who were denied any assistance because they had unmarried sons at work were forced to evict them in order to receive any kind of income from the state.

The analysis itself was dismissed as "sheer nonsense" yesterday by Mr. Frank Field, director of the Child Poverty Action Group. He said that studies in Europe, the United States and Canada had shown that children cost as much to keep as adults, while adolescents took up a larger proportion of family incomes than their parents.

Secrets case remand

John Barry, aged 33, a former corporal, of Alexandra Park Road, Wood Green, London, was remanded on bail by magistrates at Tottenham yesterday, until March 28, charged under the Official Secrets Act with passing classified information to two journalists.

The people who live in London, he said, were entitled to expect to be able to walk the streets without fear of attack, but in return parents should assume their full responsibilities by controlling their children.

Policemen should look smart and tidy—he refrained from

Women's colleges at Oxford fear second-class status

By Diana Geddes

Whatever the outcome of next term's vote by the Oxford University Council on whether the present restrictions on co-residence should be removed, the five women's colleges are almost certain to be the losers in the long run.

Congregation, the university's assembly of resident MAs, voted last week by 88 votes to 85 in favour of a resolution that the university should no longer withhold consent from amendments to college statutes that would enable a college to admit members of either sex.

While recognizing that the introduction of some single-sex undergraduate colleges and an "orderly process of change" were in the interests of the university as a whole, the resolution stated that the maintenance of an "appropriate balance" in the number of places at mixed and single-sex colleges should be the responsibility of individual colleges, not of the university.

The closeness of the vote, however, prompted opponents of the resolution to seek successfully the requisition of a postal vote which is to be held next term. While agreeing that more places should be made available for women undergraduates at Oxford, many donors fear that uncontrolled move toward co-residence would mean

that the women's colleges would be relegated to a second-class status.

Mr. John Lucas, fellow of Merton College and leader of the resolution's opponents, said: "On the face of it the resolution is very bland. It is being construed by a good many of the men's colleges as the starting pistol for a race to go co-residential and to grab the best girls for themselves, without consideration of the interests of the other colleges or of the university as a whole."

More than ten of the 18 single-sex men's undergraduate colleges wanted to take in girls as soon as possible, he said. That together with the five that are already mixed would be more than enough to "sink" the women's colleges. "Instead of being head of their own particular river, the best institutions of their kind in the country, they will be at the bottom of the river, with precious little prospect of ever getting out of the last division," Mr. Lucas said.

When it was decided in 1972 that Brasenose, Hertford, Jesus, Wadham and St Catherine's should be permitted to admit women as undergraduates from October, 1974, it was agreed that only a limited number of women should be accepted each year for an initial five-year experimental period, after which

the situation was to be reviewed.

But the introduction of the Sex Discrimination Act in 1975 made the quota arrangement illegal. Colleges had to open their doors wide and admit the best applicants regardless of sex, or not at all; a mere crack would not do. The result seems to have been that the women's colleges have feared: that their best applicants are being "creamed off."

Since 1974 applications from women for places at the mixed colleges have tripled from 275 to 785 for entry in 1977. Part, but not all, of that increase has, of course, been due to the abolition in 1976 of the quotas for women. But applications for 1977 were nearly two-thirds up on 1976. Applications for the women's colleges have stayed the same, however, 1,327 in both 1974 and 1977.

The mixed colleges can afford to be highly selective with their female candidates: for the past two years only 30 per cent of applicants have been awarded places. The women's colleges, on the other hand, which have increased their number of undergraduate places by more than a tenth since 1974, are being forced to take in "lower quality" girls; 43 per cent of applicants were awarded places this year, compared with 36 per cent in 1973.

About half of all male applicants to Oxford are awarded places. The desire of the men's colleges to go "mixed" is a part self-interest, wanting to exchange some of their less-able male applicants for some brighter females, and in part idealistic, accepting that women have a right to more undergraduate places at Oxford.

In 1973 women accounted only for 20 per cent of the undergraduates at Oxford. This year, the five mixed colleges took in 239 women, almost half the total intake (of 565) at the women's colleges, and the proportion of women undergraduates has now risen to 27 per cent. But it is still a long way short of the average for all British universities of 36 per cent.

It might be thought that the women's colleges would try to beat the men at their own game by opening their doors to men. But, it is pointed out, unlike women, men are reluctant to enter an educational establishment that is entirely dominated by members of the opposite sex. The women's colleges are also inherently less attractive than many of the older and much wealthier men's colleges with their greater prestige, beautiful buildings, extensive playing fields and well stocked libraries.

Male applicants to women's colleges would be likely to be second-rate, it is thought. Nevertheless, Lady Margaret Hall has just decided to admit male undergraduates in an attempt to attract women in sufficient numbers to be able to keep up its present very high standards. It is to amend its statutes so as to be able to accept men at all levels.

Two other women's colleges, St Anne's and St Hugh's, have taken the first steps to admitting men as fellows, but not as undergraduates. Somerville and St Hilda's have decided against admitting any men.

Whether the extension of co-residence at Oxford comes in the form of a mad rush by the men's colleges anxious about being left behind as white elephants, or whether it is phased in over the years in an orderly way, the fate of the women's colleges seems to be sealed. True, there will always be women who prefer to live and study in an all-women's college; but they are unlikely ever to be enough to have much effect.

As Mr. David Stockton, fellow of Brasenose, said: "It is now just a question of how far you can cushion the women's colleges from the inevitable but, feeling they are going to get."



Mr. David McNea, new Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, flanked by portraits of former commissioners, the late Sir Joseph Simpson (left) and Sir Robert Mark, when he took over yesterday.

Man in the news: Mr David McNea

A boost for the 'bobby on the beat' in London

By Clive Borrell
Crime Correspondent

If Mr. David McNea, the new Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, gets his way life in London is going to be better for those who live there, tough for the police who have to work there, and downright impossible for criminals who hope to commit crime there.

That was made painfully plain at Scotland Yard's briefing room yesterday when Mr. McNea, aged 51, issued his "statement of intent" on assuming the post vacated by Sir Robert Mark, commissioner for the past five years.

The people who live in London, he said, were entitled to expect to be able to walk the streets without fear of attack, but in return parents should assume their full responsibilities by controlling their children.

Policemen should look smart and tidy—he refrained from

criticizing long-haired policemen—to command respect. Corruption, where it must exist, will be rooted out. Officers who drink on duty will have to watch their step: "I do not think it is right for officers to be drunk when on duty."

"It has been suggested that I am a stern disciplinarian. I prefer to see myself as a person always seeking to improve standards, and my aim is to achieve the highest possible standard for the force. I confidently believe that this is precisely what the public would want of me, and it is my resolve that they should not be disappointed."

The engaging smile on his face turned grim when he referred to his nickname—"Hammer."

"I have been called the Hammer of the underworld," he said. "I did not know that I had this name until Fleet Street resurrected it. As long as it is kept in that context I am quite happy."

That remark brought radiant

smiles from many senior detectives I spoke to last night. For the past five years, under Sir Robert Mark, many CID men have felt that their "special status"—which in fact never existed—was being eroded. Some detectives believe that Mr. McNea will restore them to an elite grade.

But Mr. McNea made it clear at a press conference yesterday that he regarded as the most valuable man in the force the constable on the beat.

"I look on the bobby on the beat as the most valuable resource we have, and I shall be looking for ways of releasing as many men as is possible for best duties," he said.

He also allowed himself to flirt with politics for a moment, when asked for his opinion of the demand by many police officers for the right to strike.

"It would sadden me greatly if we had the right to strike," he said, adding that he hoped that a fair settlement could be reached between the Government and the police. He did suggest, however, that it was likely to be achieved only

by the Police Federation representatives returning to the negotiating table with the Police Council. The police broke off all contact with the council seven months ago and have since refused to meet them.

He thought the police must educate the public more than they had done in the past about police matters and advise them about laws.

"I do not think that there is any sense in trying to enforce a law that the public do not appreciate," he said. "I would see my role as commissioner to bring the police and the public very much closer together."

After 30 minutes in the Yard's briefing room it was clear that London not only had a new commissioner of police, but a very different one. Sir Robert's deep, thoughtful, probing ideas and answers were suddenly replaced with clipped, but nevertheless forceful, remarks heralding a new man with a different style, but obviously with the same objectives.

Day-nursery staff 'lack multiracial experience'

By a Staff Reporter

Six to 7 per cent of all children born in Britain now have mothers who were born in the New Commonwealth. In many cases the proportion is much higher.

Yet, according to a pamphlet published yesterday, staff in day nurseries that provide for the most disadvantaged under-fives feel that they have had virtually no training for working in multiracial groups and get little help in meeting the special needs of children from ethnic minorities.

The pamphlet is published by the Community Relations Commission, which collected the views of staff in 33 day nurseries. All the staff felt that they needed more knowledge of how to deal with language difficulties facing Asian non-English speakers and black children speaking non-standard dialects.

Ethnic minority children have special health needs. They are susceptible to rickets and illnesses that rarely affect white children, the pamphlet says. Nursery staff need to know about their diets.

Many staff agree that the children need special help in establishing a secure cultural identity. And their parents also need help.

The commission says that no preschool project will succeed in furthering the welfare and development of young ethnic minority children unless parents are closely involved in setting up and managing preschool projects, and planning services.

Almost all the staff agree that recruiting staff from the minority groups is helpful to children, parents and white staff. The commission recommends changes in both pre-service and in-service training for all college students to prepare them for work in multi-ethnic groups.

Caring for under-fives in a multiracial society. (Community Relations Commission, 15, Bedford Street, London WC2E 9EH, 60p.)

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- EXPO ITA 77 - International Exhibition of Heat & Sound Insulating Installations & Materials May 11-15
- 5th SIMAC - International Exhibition of Boot & Shoemaking Machines and of Machinery for Tanning and the Manufacture of Synthetic Products and Accessory May 12-15
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The Milan Fair Organization declines responsibility for any changes in the dates announced as above by the respective Committees of these Exhibitions and Trade Shows.

Lord Allen urges review of gas-price plan

By Tim Jones
Labour Reporter

A warning that the proposed increase in gas prices might influence the attitude of unions towards a further stage of wage cooperation with the Government was given yesterday by Lord Allen of Fallowfield, general secretary of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers.

Lord Allen, chairman of the TUC economic committee, said: "The union's executive is most concerned at the prospect of further price rises in the public sector, especially the proposed gas increase, at the very time when the trade union movement is considering the desirability of a third round of social contract pay guidelines as a further contribution by wage earners to the fight against inflation."

He urged the Prime Minister to reconsider the decision to seek repayment of £100m by British Gas, which was made when the size of the public sector borrowing requirement was feared to be bigger than the latest Treasury projections now show.

Working people, he said,

Experts disagree over woman's detention

Although two eminent psychiatrists took the view that a woman who thought she was a witch and killed her son, aged five, should be detained in a secure hospital, the medical superintendent of Broadmoor disagreed, it was stated at Leeds Crown Court yesterday.

Mr. Gilbert Gray, QC, for the defence, said the doctors were firmly of the view that the decision of Dr. P. G. McGrath, the medical superintendent, who had not examined the woman "arises out of a misunderstanding, a lack of understanding and appreciation of psychiatric symptoms."

Mr. Gray said Mrs. Marks was aged 35, of Beech Avenue, Horforth, Leeds, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of her son, Richard. Her plea of not guilty to murder on the grounds of diminished responsibility was accepted.

Charges of attempting to murder her husband, Brian Marks, aged 40, and attempting to murder her daughter Helen, aged nine, were ordered to stay on the file.

Mr. Gray said Mrs. Marks was

would interpret any decision to overrule the Price Commission as an indication that public-sector prices were likely to continue to rise during the next 12 months, and have a consequent effect on wage demands.

If gas prices increased the Government should at least promise that the new charges would stand for two years.

Lord Allen said consumers who had changed to gas from coal would be directly affected. Gas users alone were being asked to bear the cost of reducing the public-sector borrowing requirement.

After reading a letter from Dr. McGrath, Mr. Justice Tiesiger said: "If you take it out of its technical, medical phraseology, the superintendent at Broadmoor says they are so full they are not prepared to take this woman because she is not a security risk in the sense that she is not likely to break out of Broadmoor and kill anybody. She is only at present likely to continue to murder her husband and surviving children."

Mr. Paul Kennedy, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mrs. Marks returned home from a psychiatric hospital on November 22, and she stabbed her husband in the back three times with a carving knife. A neighbour saw Mrs. Marks's daughter, Helen, bleeding from the throat. The neighbour then saw Mrs. Marks standing over Richard's bed, having inflicted horrible injuries to the child's throat.

The judge adjourned the case for the Home Office and Department of Health and Social Security to resolve the hospital matter.

Woman driver panicked after bomb hoax

A woman driver trying to enter the car park of a Cardiff store while hundreds of people were leaving after a bomb hoax, crushed a girl aged three against a lamp post, it was stated at Cardiff Crown Court yesterday.

Mari Alexander, aged 39, managing director of her husband's motor accessories company, of Fairfield Road, Llanthony South, Glamorgan, pleaded guilty to causing death by dangerous driving. She was fined £100 and disqualified from driving for a year.

Mrs. Alexander, chairman of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland services branch of the Inner Wheel, said she panicked when someone said there was a bomb scare. Two years previously she had been frightened by a bomb incident in a London store.

Mr. Derek Howells, for the defence, said Mrs. Alexander was the victim of a cruel hoax and the person who made the call was as much responsible for the death of the child.

Divers' secret find of silver in shipwreck

Divers searching for the wreck of a trawler off the Cornish coast have found coins and cannon, and a ship thought to have sunk more than 350 years ago. More than 700 silver coins, two cannon, buttons and glass have been found in a search off Lizard Point.

Four men, Mr. Michael Hall, Mr. Kenneth Simpson, Mr. Roy Davis, and Mr. Michael Lorne, have known about the wreck for more than two years but kept it a secret because in case other divers found it.

The wreck was found in 1974 when Mr. Simpson was searching for the wreck of the trawler, the Kerris Reed, which had come down on top of the other ship.

Wreck treasure for sale, page 18

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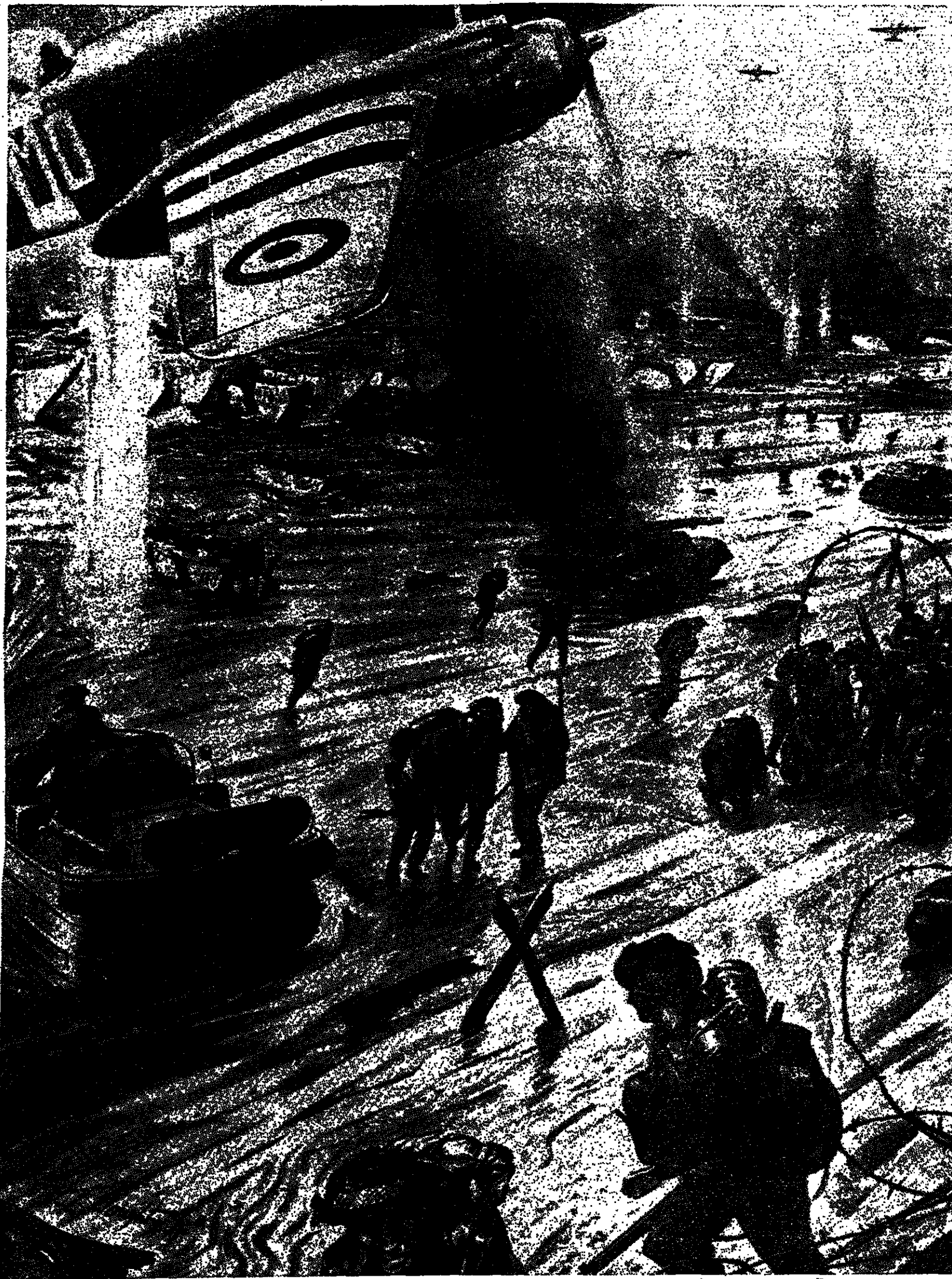
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Were you born thirty years too late to become an Army Officer?



It wouldn't be surprising if you thought so. Popular novelists, film makers and artists have portrayed the Second World War in high-flown and romantic style.

Listening to them, you'd think the conflict was an endless 'Guns of Navarone' with Officers charging across battlefields winning pocketfuls of medals.

Heroic deeds were performed, no doubt about that. But in between the action, soldiers settled down to long periods of methodical preparation: weapon training, patrolling, assault tactics, setting up defences.

Although an Officer's job is much more complex today, the work, as ever, is unglamorous, often difficult and always physically and mentally demanding. You'll have to prove you're equal to it if you want to become an Officer.

To explain exactly what this means, we've mapped out a day in the life of a Lieutenant in his early twenties. Even at this age, you'll be responsible for about thirty men.

Before giving the orders, decide what they should be.

Your working day will start at 7.45. By then, you've had your breakfast and you're on parade.

We hope you're wide awake. A soldier wants your opinion on repairs to some vital equipment. It could be worth thousands of pounds, so you'd better talk sense.

Next, half an hour's exercise. Your men mutter darkly about the tedium of road running.

Come on, think of something new—football, basketball, wrestling—then, because you're an Officer, show them how it's done.

No soldier is going to respect a podgy, armchair-loving superior who relies on a cut-glass accent to impress.

Can you lecture without sending your audience to sleep?

Around nine o'clock you're standing before your platoon with all the confidence of an after-dinner speaker.

If you're going to Ireland soon, 'How to recognise booby traps' or 'How to patrol the streets of Belfast' are essential for their safety.

During your talk, you notice two of your soldiers nodding off. Perhaps you're boring them.

Why not liven things up with slides, films, demonstrations, anything that will make it

sound new and interesting?

Whatever you decide, it's up to you to get hold of the people and equipment you need.

A break for coffee gives you the chance to discuss mutual problems with fellow Officers.

The helicopter you're using in tomorrow's exercise has broken down. Can someone provide you with a replacement?

You're preparing a lecture on 'Identification of wanted men'. You think the recall of faces might be higher if they were pasted onto the bodies of pretty girls. Ask around—it shouldn't be difficult to get hold of suitable pictures.

After the theory, the practice.

The rest of the morning you devote to training which will prepare your men for an enemy attack.

The enemy you've invented is using limited nuclear weapons. Your men will have to bury their equipment, dig trenches for themselves and erect screens against the flash.

Three weeks ago, they did the job in two hours. Today, you allow them an hour and three-quarters. With half an hour to go they're on schedule, so you shake them up by asking them to work in protective rubber clothing.

Looking more like astronauts than soldiers, one or two wilt under the heat and labour. Somehow, you've got to raise their spirits and maintain their enthusiasm.

In the afternoon, you intend using the rifle range but fog puts it out of action. However, you think the weather is ideal for orienteering, so you take your men out on the moors.

Your Commanding Officer, who is an unofficial observer, remarks that one of your men appears painfully slow at grasping even the rudiments of the exercise. You're aware of it, you explain, and you're giving him extra tuition.

Later in the afternoon, you'll wear your administrator's hat. Should that able young corporal be promoted? You have the feeling one of your sergeants would be against it. Hear him out before deciding.

Dear Marje,

You might then have to sort out your soldiers' personal problems.

A soldier wants to visit his sick mother who lives in a remote Scottish village. Not so easy when you're stationed in Germany. Can you get him a seat on a plane leaving in two hours?

A young recruit is worried because his wife is being harassed by a local tradesman who claims she owes him money. It may be just a misunderstanding which you can sort out on the telephone.

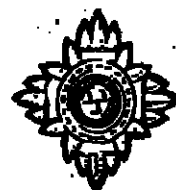
This brings you to five o'clock but your working day isn't necessarily over. You may decide that tomorrow's programme needs a couple of hours preparation.

Generally speaking, your life will follow this pattern for at least two years. We reckon it will take you that long to convince an experienced group of soldiers that you're worth respecting and obeying at all times.

If you think you could do that, and you'd enjoy doing it, we'd like to hear from you.

Write to Major C. N. B. Wellwood, Dept. A10, Army Officer Entry, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA.

Tell him your age, your educational qualifications and why the Army interests you.



Army Officer

HOME NEWS

Consumer groups want EEC's 'exorbitant' food prices resisted

By Hugh Clayton

Consumer groups issued seven demands yesterday for restraint of EEC food prices as a government survey showed that consumption of many popular foods fell last year. Families are less beef, lamb, butter and potatoes than in 1975, and more fish, carrots, breakfast cereals and rice. They drank less milk and more beer.

The groups said in a message to all MPs that EEC food prices were much too high. "For some foods we pay two or three times world prices."

The groups varied from the heavyweights of the consumer lobby, such as the Consumers' Association, to Help the Aged and the Child Poverty Action Group.

The campaign was coordinated by the National Consumer Council, members of which are appointed by ministers. The groups called on the Government to reject attempts by the EEC Commission to raise "the already exorbitant prices that consumers have to pay for some Common Market foods."

They appealed to ministers to fight for a freeze on EEC support prices for dairy products and to resist reassurance for devaluation of the "green pound", the device with which

Community farm prices are expressed in sterling.

"Food prices have already inflated by 23.5 per cent in the last 12 months—against 16.5 per cent for prices generally", they said. "While wages are restrained and the country is at counter-inflation policies, it is wrong to allow the effects of Europe's common agricultural policy to undo the good."

They called for opposition to efforts by the commission to make food processors use milk where they would normally use products based on vegetable oils. They wanted a freeze on sugar prices combined with rejection of a commission plan to tax high-fructose corn syrup, an alternative sweetener made from starch.

They wanted a freeze on cereal support prices, because of the high cost of protecting European growers against imports from outside, and a freeze on beef. They insisted that Britain should not accept any EEC-inspired rises in the price of food except those entailed by transition to full Community levels of farm support.

The National Consumer Council said those alone would add 12p a pound to butter in Britain this year, 5p to cheese, 4p to beef, 2p to a 3lb bag of flour, 1p to a large loaf and between 1p and 2p to a pound of pork, a pound of bacon and a dozen eggs.

Emigration dreamers face serious restrictions

By a Staff Reporter

Dreams of emigrating from the United Kingdom, which a new opinion poll indicates are held by a third of Britons, are unlikely to become reality because the countries such people would choose would not admit them.

In the Gallup Poll, published in *The Daily Telegraph* yesterday, people were asked: "If you were free to do so, would you like to settle in another country?"

There were 31 per cent who said they would like to emigrate, although more than half admitted that it was no more than wishful thinking; they could not really see themselves leaving Britain.

However, even if they did apply they would run into enormous difficulties because the main countries of their choice, Canada (27 per cent), Australia (24 per cent) and New Zealand (20 per cent), now severely restrict immigration.

With increasing unemployment, those countries have little need for large numbers of relatively unskilled immigrants and the demand for skilled and professional people has also declined.

Thus the demand is now concentrated in very specialized fields, where Britons can offer both qualifications and experience.

The United States, preferred by 9 per cent, has clamped down on immigration in recent years and the EEC countries, although possibly easier to enter, present a language barrier to would-be British immigrants and have unemployment difficulties of their own.

Economic difficulties in Britain have usually provided a stimulus for emigration, but the extent to which restrictions in foreign countries prevent would-be immigrants from leaving Britain is demonstrated by the fact that while 214,000 citizens emigrated from the United Kingdom in 1970 the figure in 1975 dropped to 164,000.

Reasons given in answers to the poll for being in favour of emigration were that some people saw no future in Britain (22 per cent), no incentives and high taxation (14 per cent), a new life abroad (14 per cent) and the cost of living and inflation (13 per cent).

Reasons given for choosing a new home abroad were better opportunities (26 per cent), having friends or relatives in the new country (23 per cent), the weather (18 per cent), plenty of space (16 per cent) and a better standard of living (14 per cent).



The still mainly Victorian townscape of Oldham, Greater Manchester. The town was once the heart of the Lancashire cotton belt. Today cotton is being superseded by newer industries, and many of the old mills are derelict or only partly occupied. There are still 140 of them but it is thought that only about 20 will continue in use into the next century.

Ambitious town fighting mills' dark image

Regional report

John Chartres
Oldham

Although it is a long time since the "dark and satanic" description was justified, the old cotton mills of Oldham are becoming an embarrassment to the bright new metropolitan borough, which is trying to capture a lion's share of industry moving into the North.

Oldham, once the heartland of the coarse-spinning section of the great Lancashire cotton industry, still has 140 mills left within the borough boundary, all four-square towering monuments to Victorian enterprise.

Mr. Andrew Harris, the borough estates and industrial development officer, estimates that only 20 of them are likely to continue in full use into the next century. He wants to make the 700 acres of land that the others occupy available for other uses. Other mills are falling into a state of dereliction while their owners advertise them for sale or rent.

The legislation proposed would still be fair to the owners, Mr. Harris believes. The suggestions include provisions for owners to appeal against an unfavourable order on grounds that

the property could be made usable and meet a general demand on the market.

Although site values only would be the basis for compensation for a mill declared such unfit, there would be a supplement available to bring compensation up to the open-market level for an occupied building or one used for the owner's business for three of the five years before a takeover.

There has been some emotional reaction to the plan from the citizens of the "new Oldham", a borough which comprises such townships as Shaw, Crompton, Royton, Lees and Saddleworth, all staunchly independent communities before local government reorganisation and historic landmarks dominated by King Cotton.

Only about 13 per cent of the workforce of the new borough are employed in the textile industry today.

Some of the mills still proudly display on their chimneys the names of the Victorian cotton masters: Lily, Lilac, Fern, Orb and, somewhat

out of the general run, Cairo and Elk.

Some still produce textiles from cotton and man-made fibres under the ownership of companies as Courtauld, and there is no question of the corporation's trying to steel ball-and-chain demolition teams towards them.

Some may even become listed buildings. The masters, who built them did not neglect such features as domes and glazed brickwork, and the height of the chimneys was a mark of the owner's financial standing.

To many residents even the new Oldham would not be the same without its skyline of mills on the ridges of the Lancashire-Yorkshire moors, regardless of the building of underpasses and overpasses, pedestrian precincts and tinted-glass office blocks.

Mr. Harris and his committee well understand the feeling. They are not against cotton mills as such, but they think there are too many of them serving little useful purpose, and they need the land for the new generation of industry taking over the Lancashire cotton belt.

In brief

Indian printing plant wrecked

Hooligans have caused thousands of pounds of damage to the offices of *Def Perdes* in Indian newspaper, at Rochester, Kent. Slogans were daubed over walls, pots of paint emptied over printing machinery and photographic material thrown into the street.

The damage was discovered yesterday by Mr. Tarsam Purewal, the editor. He said the paper sells 30,000 copies throughout the world each week.

"We have no hope of printing this week's issue. Typesetters in Punjab have been smashed and stolen. These people are obviously anti-immigrant lunatics."

Police vote on strikes

In a poll of Lancashire police 71 per cent voted in favour of seeking the right to strike, but the force's 1,172 Police Federation members came out against seeking affiliation to the TUC.

Supporters fined £1,100

Fines totalling £1,100 were imposed on 15 football supporters at Cardiff Magistrates' Court yesterday after incidents before and after the Cardiff City and Chelsea match at Cardiff on Saturday.

Wartime bomb found

A live wartime German incendiary bomb found when a potato patch was being dug at a house near Dent, Cumbria, was collected by army experts yesterday.

Alderney colour TV

The Independent Broadcasting Authority's UHF television relay station on Alderney began transmissions yesterday, carrying the 625-line colour programmes of Channel Television.

Anglers' bodies found

The bodies of three out of four men missing on a fishing trip from Littlehampton, Sussex, were recovered yesterday at Ferring.

Covent Garden inquiry

A public inquiry opens today into the Greater London Council plan for the Covent Garden area.

Pike threat to trout

The course fishing season necessary survey but a trout lake at Colwick near Nottingham, have until Easter to catch pike, which are threatening the trout stock.



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"Help them grow old with dignity"

'Neighbours' seek leading inner-city role

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The voluntary neighbourhood or community councils lay claim to an important role in tackling the crisis in Britain's inner cities in a memorandum to the Government just published.

The Association of Neighbourhood Councils, which represents the growing number of such bodies, believes the councils could ensure the best use of resources and gain the participation of people living in the inner-city areas.

England's two hundred neighbourhood councils are the urban equivalent of the statutory parish councils, which provide a grass-roots link between the people and the district councils. The association says three quarters of the

English population live in "unparished" areas.

The association recently met Mr. Guy Barnett, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, and its comments are in response to inner-city studies of Birmingham, Lambeth and Liverpool which were sponsored by the department.

It notes that the inner-city reports described a sense of alienation between residents and those in authority, a sense of remoteness creating the appearance of an uncaring bureaucracy and local councilors unable to give political expression to the needs of the wards.

Recognizing that the regeneration of inner cities required a massive investment programme, the reports called for a total approach, part of which would be community involvement.

The association argues that to meet the recommended requirements the democratic

ally elected neighbourhood council stands out as the most desirable and satisfactory method of local representation, participation and involvement.

Neighbourhood councils would provide local political expression, able to raise an independent voice on local issues.

The association says that previous action on inner-city difficulties has suffered from lack of central government direction and welcomes present efforts to deal with it. But it says there has also been a failure to ensure the effective use of resources with the active participation of people living in inner-city areas. Neighbourhood councils are the most effective way of meeting this second lack. The association adds that there is a need for legislation to give such councils statutory status.

Research into the potential of neighbourhood councils is being undertaken on behalf of the Department of the Environment by Mr. Stephen

Humble, research fellow at the Institute of Local Government Studies, Birmingham.

He has found no evidence, however, of two important exceptions, that they are unrepresentative of their local communities. One of the exceptions is that they "certainly are not representative of coloured people in those communities of significant coloured immigration."

He says another weakness is a tendency to leave the 18-24 age group, especially young families, unrepresented.

Reporting in *Municipal Review*, the journal of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, Mr. Humble asks to what extent local authorities are prepared to devolve power and responsibility to neighbourhood councils.

Only to a limited degree, the research suggests. Few local authorities consult neighbourhood councils, and where they do, there is a danger that they will raise false hopes."

Probation officers oppose more early paroles

By a Staff Reporter

Any attempt by the Home Office to reduce the prison population by increasing the number of prisoners granted early parole is likely to be strongly resisted by a growing number of probation officers who already feel that the slender resources of the service are overstretched.

They fear that the basic foundations of their work, "to advise, assist and befriend" offenders, are being eroded and that the controlling aspect of the work, such as supervising offenders who are given non-custodial sentences, is becoming dominant.

Writing in the latest issue of the *Probation Journal*, Mr. Jack Chapman, of the Inner London Probation and After Care Service, says that in view of the Government's reported intention to increase substantially the number of parolees, it was reasonable to ask not only how

the service was going to find the resources to exercise the necessary supervision but also whether it was right in principle that those resources should be freed, to the detriment of other activities.

Economic restraint meant that the service's manpower would have to stay at its present level for at least the next three years. But the demands on the service continued to grow.

"Can we win the struggle to retain our caring function against all the odds which now assail it?" Mr. Chapman asks. He suggests that the service must streamline its range of responsibilities to restore its capacity to work effectively.

Any extension of parole work might prompt some to ask whether the service should continue to supervise parolees at all. It might be sufficient in many cases for them simply to report regularly to the police.

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WEST EUROPE

Italian Minister says student majority supports new violence

From Peter Nichols, Rome, March 14

Political violence in Italy has changed in the past few days, for the first time, the country may be facing political terrorism with mass student support. Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Minister of the Interior, said in an interview today.

The Communists also claim to be appalled by the new outbreak and, indeed, they were the first to suffer from the latest cycle when they failed in their attempt to discipline disaffection at Rome University.

An outstanding difference between the new violence and that of 1968 is that the police are no longer the mindless ogres of the scene, as they used to be. Signor Cossiga was emphatic in his statement yesterday after visiting the policemen in hospital who were injured during Saturday's riots.

That the damage had not been much worse was due, he said, to the training and ability of the leadership of the police forces and to the prudence and courage of the men. Today a group of members of Rome's far left sent a message to the student organisations in a "fraternal spirit", calling on them to avoid being made use of by agitators and to isolate the provocative elements who had caused the disorders.

The tone of this highly unusual message suggests belief that the violence was the work of a small minority. Signor Cossiga takes the more bitter view that had the majority wanted to dissociate themselves from what happened, they could easily have done so.

The Vatican newspaper "Osservatore Romano" tonight defined the new outbreak of

student violence as "the fruits of a vast campaign for subverting traditional values without putting forward new ones, in particular to young people."

Tonight Signor Cossiga told Parliament of the "extreme danger" in the convergence of young people around the activities of groups dedicated exclusively to pseudorevolution and violence. He raised the question of whether the normal methods for defending public order were sufficient to deal with subversion.

Bologna, March 14.—Thousands of young leftists today paid their last respects to a student whose death in a demonstration here on Friday set off a chain of riots in cities throughout Italy over the weekend.

The coffin of Francesco Lorusso, who was shot by the police in circumstances still to be clarified, was draped in a red flag and greeted with clenched fist salutes.

The police said about 6,000 people attended the funeral. Demonstrations had been forbidden in the city except for the 300 yards of road between the church where the funeral service was held and the cemetery. Huge forces of police stood by to head off trouble.

In Rome Signor Cossiga told Parliament that the Government might have to submit special legislation to deal with the trouble.

The authorities would make a detailed study of the weekend disturbances and would then "draw the necessary conclusions both on a technical level and on the level of possible legislative measures which might be deemed indispensable to halt the spiral of organized violence", he said.—Reuter.

Leading article, page 17

TV post for Bonn envoy to Britain

From Our Correspondent, Berlin, March 14

Herr Karl-Günther von Hase, the West German Ambassador in London for the past seven years, has been elected director of ZDF, the second West German television channel based in Mainz.

He had been about to take up his new post as ambassador to the European Commission in Brussels but he will now be leaving the diplomatic service for one of the most influential jobs in West Germany.

Acceptable both to the ruling Social Democrats and the Opposition Christian Democrats, he was put forward as a compromise candidate to break a political deadlock among the 56 members of the television board who represent the Länder and various public organisations. He got 55 votes.

Herr von Hase, aged 59, was head of the government Press Office from 1962 to 1968, before that he was head of the Press section of the Foreign Ministry.

Lost jobs temper joy over nuclear power ruling

From Dan van der Vat, Bonn, March 14

West Germany's troubled nuclear power station project at Wyhl, on the Rhine, has been the butt of local and national environmentalist protests since its inception.

The decision to build at Wyhl was taken in 1973, and planning permission was granted in principle by the state government at the end of 1974. Protests took out at once. Early in 1975, a local referendum showed 5 per cent in the district to be in favour of the project and 41 per cent against. As building was about to start, the protesters went to court.

In the early months of 1975, confrontations between demonstrators and the police took place. The site was occupied, cleared and reoccupied. The interim injunction was imposed in March, 1975. The protesters occupied the site for most of 1975.

If Wyhl made nuclear energy national issue, the protest against another atomic power station at the other end of the country, at Brokdorf on the Baltic, turned it into the focus of a civil protest in West Germany. The demonstrations were in the past few months made Wyhl appear a mere side-show.

Several times, the confrontation between police and tens of thousands of demonstrators has been within a hair's breadth of disaster.

West Germany committed itself to a nuclear power programme after the oil crisis, in an attempt to make itself less dependent on oil. The Federal Government has already conceded that the protest movement has obliged it to think again and scale down its plans in this field.

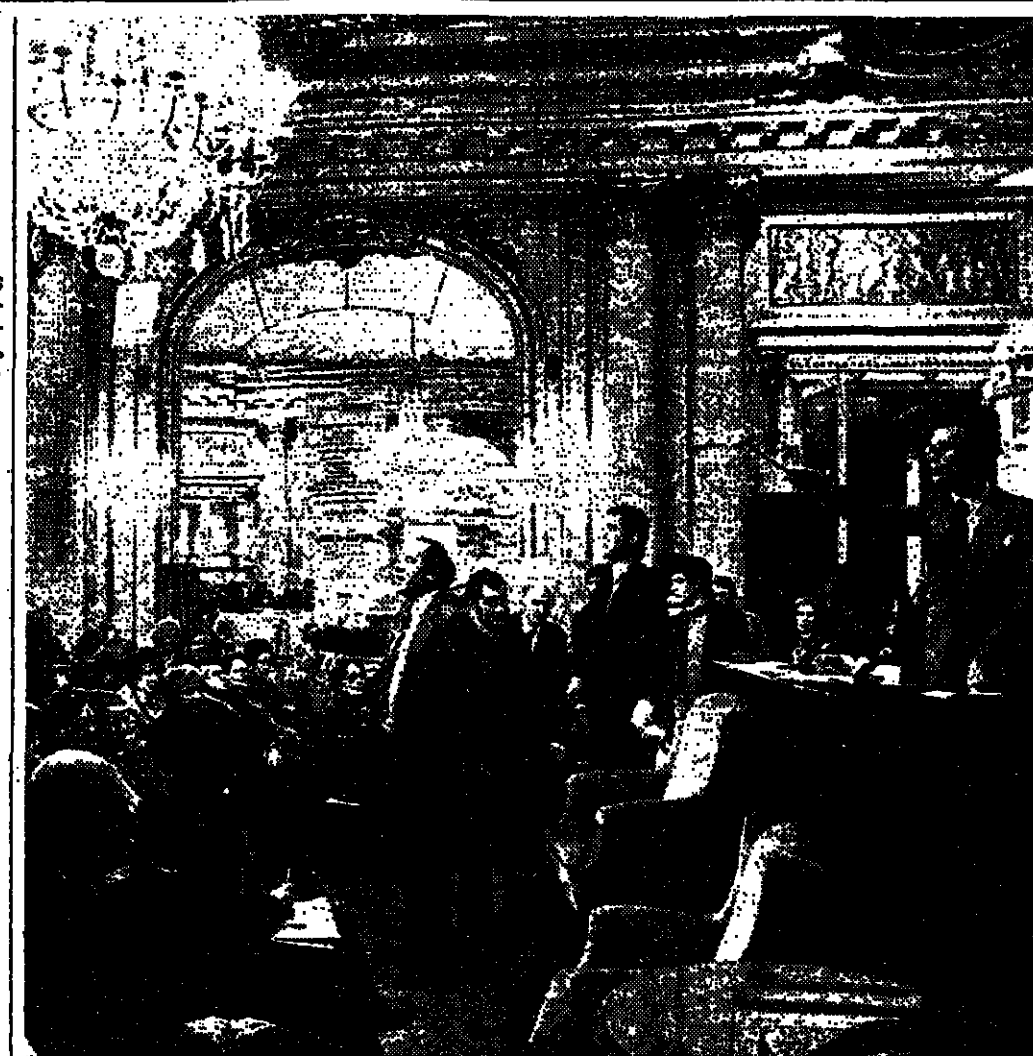
But there are not the only difficulties Bonn has to contend with in the sphere of nuclear energy. The recent cold weather which affected much of the United States has meant that the supply of uranium from America, the principal source, has slowed down to a trickle as the Americans give priority to their own energy needs.

Then the West Germans have been forced by the Carter Administration to reconsider what would be, if it came off, an all-time record export order for eight nuclear power plants for Brazil.

This deal would have the side-effect, viewed with unconcealed alarm in Washington, of making the United States the raw material of atomic bombs in the hands of the dictatorial leaders of a big country in an unstable continent.

West German scientists associated with the joint European nuclear fusion project (known as "JET"), frustrated by the inability of West European countries concerned to agree on a site for it, have threatened to emigrate to America, Japan or even Russia to be able to continue their work.

The choice of a site for a dump for nuclear waste is also proving extremely difficult.



Fitting farewell: Before the elegant nineteenth-century Hôtel Claridge, in the Champs Elysées, Paris, is pulled down, its fittings and furniture, including a piano on which Chopin played in his Paris days, are being auctioned. Many of the items in the auctions, which continue until March 24, are antiques.

French municipal polls strengthen Socialist-Communist alliance

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, March 14

There were two obvious winners in yesterday's first ballot of the French municipal elections: the Union of the Left and M. Jacques Chirac.

There were two losers: the Communists and all the marginal parties, victims of a bipolarisation between right and left which has now spread to the country's political grass roots.

There is one unknown: the ecologists, whose votes may well decide the issue in several large towns and especially in Paris, in the second ballot next Sunday.

But some commentators argue that beyond the two blocks confronting one another in the field, there is another loser, President Giscard d'Estaing himself. His champion, M. Michel d'Ornano, the Minister for Industry, has been beaten in his attempt to become Mayor of Paris by M. Chirac, his Gaullist challenger, who emerges from this first ballot with a comfortable lead.

Whichever way it was presented, M. Chirac's candidature amounted to a challenge to the President. But it was a personal, not a party, success. In the provinces, the Gaullist lists did not fare appreciably better than the Giscardians.

Bad France have elected a new Parliament instead of choosing the councils and mayors of 36,395 municipalities, the left would have had every chance of winning a majority of 4 to 5 per cent. The analogy with national elections is more justified than for municipal polls in the past, where even in the bigger towns local personalities and issues prevailed. This time the battle was on a national basis; the progress of the left has national significance; and for once all the parties involved acknowledged it ungrudgingly.

The lessons of yesterday's ballot are valid for next year's parliamentary elections. First, it is clear that the alliance between Socialists and Communists has proved a paying proposition mainly for the Socialists, but also—and this is important for the internal harmony of the left in the future—for the Communists as well. The Union of the Left has won 33 towns of more than 30,000 inhabitants from the Government majority, 23 of them going to the Socialist Party, and 10 to the Communists; and it has a reasonable prospect of increasing that score to 50 towns after the second ballot next Sunday.

But more important, the left has won a number of larger towns where it had not been expected to have the remotest chance—like Angers, carried by the centrist in the first ballot in 1971 with a majority of 11,000; La Roche-sur-Yon, in the heart of Christian Democratic territory; Beauvais, a fief of the Government majority for 30 years; and Chartres, an "ornament of provincial conservatism" in the words of *Le Quotidien de Paris*.

The Socialists continue to be the main beneficiaries of the Union of the Left. But the Communists led the lists they held their ground successfully and even scored gains at the expense of all the parties of the majority—as at Rheims, Chalons-sur-Saône, and Montluçon, an old Socialist stronghold. The left's success in the first ballot, where the two parties went separately into battle, the Communists came out on top in five.

Even Marseilles, where M. Gaston Defferre, the Socialist

Friction among left in Lyons sister town

From Edward Mortimer, Lyons, March 14

One man well pleased with the results of yesterday's municipal elections in France is M. Charles Hernu, the 53-year-old defence spokesman of the Socialist Party. In the second ballot next Sunday, M. Hernu will almost certainly be elected Mayor of Villeurbanne, the sister town of Lyons.

That it itself is not very remarkable. The Socialist Party has done well almost everywhere in France, and many towns have elected Socialist mayors without waiting for a run-off ballot. Besides, the present Mayor, M. Etienne Gagnaire, was himself a member of the Socialist Party until he was expelled in 1962.

Now supported by the Government parties, he actually won more votes yesterday than M. Hernu did. To beat him M. Hernu will need the votes which went yesterday to the rival left-wing list, led by Communist M. René Desgrand.

Luckily for him M. Hernu is only 1,193 votes behind M. Gagnaire, and therefore will not need anything like all the 9,884 votes that went to M. Desgrand; for there will almost certainly be quite a few Communist voters who refuse to turn out next Sunday, and though M. Desgrand will probably advise his supporters to

transfer their votes to M. Hernu, he will hardly do so with any enthusiasm.

The Communists in Villeurbanne are bitter against M. Hernu and the Socialist Party, for they consider that in promoting his candidature the Socialists have broken the national agreement reached between the two parties last year. Under this the local branches were supposed to negotiate "for the best possible agreement of left-wing union in the first ballot", forming "joint lists on the basis of all the election results since the signature of the common programme".

The common programme of government was signed in 1972. Since then there have been three elections in Villeurbanne: the general election of March 1973, the cantonal elections of September-October 1973, and the presidential election of 1974. The last offers no guide to the relative strengths of the two main left-wing parties, since they both supported the same candidate, M. Mitterrand; but in the first two the Communist candidates were well ahead of the Socialists in Villeurbanne.

The Communists therefore considered they had an undoubted right to provide the candidate for mayor in a joint list, and put forward M. Desgrand, a well-known local trade

OVERSEAS

Bitter personal feuds mark final days of the Indian election

From Richard Wigg, Lucknow, March 14

Bitter personal battles between Mrs Gandhi the Prime Minister, and former chief ministers and secessionist Congress leaders have dominated the election contest in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

It has 85 MPs and since independence it has been a bastion of Congress power. But party campaign managers concede that many of the ruling party's seats will become marginal in the general election, which begins on Wednesday.

The Congress Party is defending 72 of the seats captured in 1971 and its pro-Moscow communist allies five more.

Fighting to maintain her own position, Mrs Gandhi has devoted three tough days of campaigning to the state.

She spent yesterday in her rural constituency of Rae Bareilly, ending with a well-staged mass rally in Lucknow's Victoria Park.

Mrs Gandhi is being challenged by Mr. R. N. Sarin, the combined opposition front candidate who lost to her in 1971.

Mr. Sarin's younger son, is one of the star attractions in Uttar Pradesh, fighting the Amethi constituency next to his mother's for the first time. Another controversial figure is Mr. H. N. Bahuguna, the former Chief Minister of the state, who says he was dismissed by Mrs Gandhi in 1975. Mr. Bahuguna, now general secretary of the breakaway Congress for Democracy, formed by Mr. Jagjivan Ram, the former Agricultural Minister, is fighting a seat in Lucknow.

Another opposition candidate is Mr. Chavan Singh, the number two man in Mr. Morarji Desai's Janata party alliance.

In Rae Bareilly, Mrs Gandhi, who was driven through the town in a jeep to a sports ground, was listened to by a respectful but unenthusiastic crowd. She listed the factories, roads, schools built and the irrigation improvements made in the constituency. The many women in the audience, often segregated from the men, listened silently to a tired and taut looking Mrs Gandhi.

But in Lucknow Mrs Gandhi was in a fighting mood and attacked her "double crossers". She accused Mr. Bahuguna of "insulting the office of Prime Minister", provoking unrest in Uttar Pradesh and exploiting the country's backwardness for his own political ends. Black marketers were "behind the opposition", she said.

Mrs Gandhi is still followed by large crowds, though in Rae Bareilly the ground was not completely filled because Janata party workers canvassed briskly on the outskirts as she spoke.

A dozen lorries were at the sports ground to take the audience back into the village and allegations of "rent-a-crowd" practices are rife. Janata workers claimed village bus owners had been paid 150 rupees (£10), plus concessionary petrol, to bring in the villagers.

The Prime Minister's son has been canvassing from house to house in his constituency. "Greater stability" was needed before the emergency could be lifted, he said. He was evasive on most questions, but insisted that if elected he would refuse to become a Cabinet minister.

He accused his opponent of being "a known member of a gang to whom a dozen killings would make no difference". Later Mr. Gandhi complained that India had "very weak" libel laws, and claimed the Indian press had been telling "gross lies about him and his business activities."

Mrs Gandhi's fight, page 16

Owen tour raises new hope on Rhodesia

From Nicholas Ashford, Johannesburg, March 14

Although Dr David Owen's visit to southern Africa is being described as a "familiarization tour", diplomatic circles here believe it could lead to renewed moves towards finding a settlement in Rhodesia.

There have been suggestions recently that a new Anglo-American-South African initiative would soon begin in an attempt to pick up the pieces left over from Mr. Ivor Richard's hasty mission, and last month Dr Hilgard Muller, the South African Foreign Minister, said that representatives from the three countries would meet shortly to discuss such a move. Although this was denied in London and Washington, the flurry of diplomatic activity since then—culminating in Mr. Callaghan's talks in Washington last week—suggest that a new plan is being considered.

To an extent South Africa has been left out of these contacts largely because Britain and the United States do not want to be seen to be collaborating too closely with Pretoria at this stage. However, both countries are aware that South African participation is essential if a new initiative is to succeed. Any meeting Dr Owen will have with Rhodesian leaders will take place in South Africa.

It will be the first visit to southern Africa by a British Foreign Secretary since Mr. Callaghan was here more than three years ago.

Michael Knipe writes from Salisbury: The Rhodesian Government has welcomed the news of Dr Owen's visit to southern Africa. However, satisfaction is mixed with Rhineland. The prospect that Salisbury will not be included in his itinerary.

Mr. Pieter van der Byl issued a statement noting that the stated purpose of the visit was to have first-hand discussions with those most directly concerned with Rhodesia, adding: "I therefore look forward to meeting Dr Owen in Salisbury."

News of the visit will boost hopes here of new moves towards a constitutional settlement. Mr. Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, said in an interview in Bulawayo yesterday: "I think there is a chance of a settlement. I have faith and I believe we will have one." A peaceful settlement, he said, would mean that "the Russian bid to interfere in Rhodesia had failed."

A spokesman for Mr. Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu) today gave a cool response to news of Dr Owen's tour.

Nationalist insurgents join battle with Laos forces

Bangkok, March 14.—Fierce fighting has broken out between several thousand well-armed Laotian nationalist guerrillas and government forces on the outskirts of the former royal capital of Luang Prabang, 180 miles north of Vientiane, an informed source in the Laotian capital said over the telephone today.

The fighting led to the arrest of former King Savang Varnhans, who is 69, and all members of his family. Special political police made the arrests at dawn on Saturday to prevent any possibility of the king going over to the nationalists.

The king and his family were reported to have been taken to an unknown destination in north-east Laos, the Pathet Lao stronghold during the civil war, he added.

Heavy reinforcements, consisting of several Vietnamese battalions, were flown to Luang Prabang from the Plain of Jars, about 100 miles east of the former royal capital.

Malaysian troops join hunt for Thai guerrillas

Kuala Lumpur, March 14.—More than 3,000 Malaysian troops entered southern Thailand today to join Thai soldiers in a second large-scale operation against Communist guerrillas.

The operation, code-named Bigstar Two, began two months after a similar drive lasting more than two weeks in which about 20 guerrillas were killed.

Ten days ago the two countries signed a new general agreement for the policing of their 240-mile frontier.

Bangkok: Troops captured the Krun Ching communist guerrilla camp in fierce fighting yesterday. Radio Thailand reported today. Fifty terrorists were killed, it said, and 22 arrested.—Agence France-Press.

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EEC anger over Faroes cutback on fish catches

From David Cross, Brussels, March 14

The European Community is protesting to the Faroe Islands over proposed restrictions on fish catches in their waters.

The Faroes government announced last week it would cut by 1,000 tonnes of cod and haddock within a 100-mile zone during a six-week period beginning tomorrow. Last year the fishery fleet alone brought 7,000 tonnes of these species during the first four months.

The Community's irritation at the Faroes move was heightened by the shore notice of a new fishing agreement due to be signed in Brussels tomorrow, the Faroes will consult the Community fully before taking any new measures.

The Nine's ministers of agriculture agreed here today that the Faroes had failed to live up to the spirit of this agreement, which lays down a general framework for negotiating annual fish catches in each other's waters.

The Community's spokesmen at tomorrow's signing were given the task of protesting to the Faroes before putting their names to the agreement.

Mr. Austen Laing, director-general of the British Fishing Federation, said it would be "extremely serious" for Aberdeen, Leith and, to a lesser extent, Grimsby if the restrictions went through. "I have been told," he said, "that it could mean the end of trawling for the Aberdeen and Leith fleets."

After today's discussions, Mr. Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, said the restrictions would mean a very substantial reduction for British fishermen. However, he was confident the new measures would not be introduced until there had been full discussions between the Community and representatives of the Faroes.

The Faroe Islands, which lie between Scotland and Iceland, are self-governing, but their external relations are handled by Denmark, ironically in this case, a member of the Community.

During other fisheries talks here today, the Irish Government again backed down from a confrontation with its Community partners over fishing rights. It agreed to postpone for a further fortnight the unilateral introduction of controls on the size of vessels allowed to operate.

Mr. Finn Olav Gundelach, the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Fish, promised to table by the middle of next month new proposals for settling the Community's internal fishing arrangements once and for all. A final decision by the Council of Ministers would be taken by the end of June at the latest.

Basque marcher hit by police rubber bullet dies

From Our Correspondent, Madrid, March 14

The death in San Sebastian today of a 20-year-old demonstrator whose face was crushed by a rubber bullet fired by police at yesterday's pro-independence march is expected to anger Basque nationalists.

Their demand for immediate and total amnesty for everyone imprisoned for political activities is by no means met by the limited amnesty.

In Madrid, police played down the extreme right-wing links of seven people arrested in connexion with the massacre of four Communist lawyer-trustees on January 24.

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OVERSEAS

Korean dissident's jail plea to US not to withdraw its troops

From Peter Hazelhurst
Seoul, March 14

Making a dramatic appeal to Washington from his prison cell in Seoul, Mr Kim Dae Jung, South Korea's Opposition leader, has declared that he opposes President Carter's plans to withdraw American ground forces from the Korean peninsula.

Confounding American liberals who are proposing to link future military commitments to South Korea with the question of human rights, the Korean Opposition leader declared that he wants President Carter to maintain a military presence in Korea "at all costs".

The statement, issued through Mrs Kim who visited her husband in jail last week, indicates Opposition fears that President Kim Il Sung of North Korea might interpret the American move as a sign of weakness and step up military action against the South.

"We have been deprived of our freedom by this Government but we have to think of the security of our nation and people. I beg President Carter not to withdraw American ground forces", Mrs Kim quoted her husband as saying.

Speaking to *The Times* in her modest home in Seoul, Mrs Kim, who has emerged as one of the Government's most outspoken critics, said: "We are fighting for the release of our husbands and other political prisoners in South Korea, but we do not want to link the issue with American military assistance. There are other ways of helping."

"We all appreciate statements on human rights which were issued recently by President Carter and Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary. We hope that they will not only apply pressure on the Soviet Union but that they will also take up the problem of human rights in South Korea."

Suggesting that President Park's regime employs the same repressive methods as the Soviet Union, Mrs Kim said: "Sometimes I am confused by the situation—I begin to think that I am living in a communist country."

Mrs Kim, who is constantly followed by the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, pointed out that the wives of political prisoners, democrats and Christian dissidents are continually hounded by the regime.

"Their methods are just as crude as that of the Soviet police. Two weeks ago we attempted to hold a press conference at the headquarters of the National Council of Churches on the anniversary of the Myongdong statement on March 1 last year."

[Mrs Kim and 17 others were arrested and held in a prison after they had defied the regime's emergency regulations and called for President Park's resignation at a prayer meeting in Seoul's Myongdong Cathedral. Mrs Kim was later jailed for five years.]

"Christian women and the wives of democrats who attempted to attend a special Mass at the Myongdong Cathedral were forced into a bus and driven around the suburbs of Seoul for four hours until the service was over", Mrs Kim continued.

Fifty relatives of political prisoners were held under house arrest by brute force during the period of the anniversary. There was no law to justify the act. Police agents just surrounded our homes and used force to prevent us from leaving. No one could enter our homes, either," she added.

Mrs Kim believed that Western democracies could do much to assist a democratic struggle to restore human rights in South Korea.

"We are grateful that American and British soldiers gave their lives to preserve democracy in South Korea during the Korean War. But we are ashamed that democracy does not exist in Korea these days."

"The Government claims that democratic privileges have had to be suspended because of the nonsense of March 1st. It is nonsense. Even at the time of the Korean War we were ruled by a democratic Government. Elections, too, were held."

She suggested that a letter of support from President Carter and the British Foreign Secretary would bolster the fight for political rights in South Korea.

Text of deathbed statement by Professor Jan Patočka is brought from Prague to the West

'Last will' of Czech civil rights leader defends Charter campaign

By Our Foreign Staff

What is believed to be the last written statement by Professor Jan Patočka, one of the three spokesmen for the Charter 77 movement, has just reached the West. It is dated March 3 and was written in the Prague hospital to which the distinguished philosopher was admitted on March 3.

He died on Sunday as a result of a cerebral haemorrhage on Friday. On Thursday police had come to the hospital and questioned him again.

At the time of writing he would have known that new signatures were still being added to the Charter in spite of intense police pressure. The number of signatures has now reached 617 and the proportion of workers among them is increasing. Additional support has come from many who are not willing to make their names public.

Here is a shortened version of Professor Patočka's statement, the full text of which was made available by the Palach Press:

Many people ask whether Charter 77 will not lead to increased "vigilance" which in turn will have an adverse effect on all citizens.

Let us be frank about this: in the past no conformity has yet led to any improvement in the situation, only a worsening. The greater the fear and servility the more brazen have the authorities become. There is no way to make them relax the pressure other than by showing them that injustices and discrimination are not ignored. What is needed is for people to behave at all times with dignity, not to allow themselves to be frightened and intimidated, and to speak the truth—behaviour which is impressive just because it is in such contrast to the way the authorities carry on.

Thus it is possible that repression may be intensified in individual cases. People can lose even those jobs which until now seemed a safe haven—night watchmen, window cleaners, stokers, hospital orderlies, and so on. But not for long, since these jobs have to be done by somebody. And there is the important gain in the feelings of uncertainty engendered in the official mind. Our rulers can now never be quite sure who it is they are dealing with.

They must ask themselves whether those who still obey them today will be willing to do so tomorrow.

The fact that the opponents of the charter have felt it necessary to unleash a ferocious smear campaign regardless of truth; and that they manipulated "public opinion" to produce resolutions attacking us has created far more sympathy for us, both at home and abroad, than we dared expect. This alone is an important result, for innocence and decent conduct are powerful political factors.

The legal character of the charter, the fact that its aim is to foster an unconditional and publicly accountable legality, the obvious refusal of the authorities to accept this principle of equality of the citizen before the law, their refusal to conduct a dialogue about the issues involved, has given us a considerable political advantage and forced our adversary to seek new methods in his struggle against us.

The authorities have realized it is not enough to invent transparent fairy tales about anti-state centres and so-called "compromised" people. The charter is not about personalities but about issues and factual arguments, and the latter have so far been completely lacking where our opponents are concerned.

We may well be asked how long we expect to keep the support of our own people if we are unable to help them except by protests on paper. And how long can we count on sympathies abroad?

Let me try and turn the question round. Let us ask what we expect of the signing of international conventions on human, economic, social and cultural rights? Let us also ask what those who actually signed them, on both sides of the world political divide, expected? We believe that the signatories in many of the eastern block countries expected they would not have to change anything in their treatment of their populations, and that everything would remain as before.

Others, however, expected a great deal. The ordinary people in these countries saw in these pacts a new, indeed the only, guarantee that there would be no repetition of the events of the twenties and thirties in the Soviet Union and the fifties in our country, things which happened in spite of these states swearing by socialism and humanity and boasting the "freest constitutions in the world".

The international pacts signed as a result of the Helsinki conference did bring something new, giving fresh hope to mankind. This new element explains why the charter, and the frenetic reaction to it has evoked such interest. It showed that implementing the agreements would not be as easy as might have been expected.

We are convinced that there is no one in the world who does not know that the Helsinki agreements would not be as easy as might have been expected. We thus have to report that people are again aware that there are things for which it is worthwhile to suffer. That the things for which one may have to suffer are often those which make life worth living. That without these things, art, literature, culture, and so on, are mere crafts engaged in to earn one's daily bread.

All this we know today, and to a large extent this knowledge is due to Charter 77. Prague, 8 March 1977.

Professor Dr Jan Patočka

Missionaries leave Zaire border area

Kinshasa, March 14.—Five more American missionaries and 10 children were evacuated yesterday from Sandoa, in the south-eastern province of Shaba, after an attack by Angola-based troops last week, the United States Embassy announced today.

This brings the total of American citizens who have left the area to 13. The spokesman said that only two missionaries were left in Sandoa and eight at the mission station of Kapanga, one of the three border towns held by the attackers. The others are Dilolo and Kissenge.

The Zaire authorities maintained their blackout on information concerning military activities in the area and declined to confirm whether an offensive against the invading forces that sources announced on Sunday had actually started.

An embassy spokesman said that the last evacuees to leave Sandoa reported the area quiet, with no sign of military activity at the time of their departure.

Sri Lanka run by 'invisible' government

Colombo, March 14.—Sri Lanka's Communist Party claimed today that the power of the Finance Minister, who is responsible for the country's economy, has been enhanced out of all proportion and even at the expense of senior ministers in the ruling Freedom Party.

The charge was made by Mr Pieter Keuneman, party secretary-general, a former Housing Minister, who with six other Communist MPs, left the government coalition recently saying it was becoming too capitalist.

In a statement published in the *Ceylon Daily Mirror*, Mr Keuneman said that Mr Felix Bandaranaike, the Finance Minister, now exercised either direct or indirect control over important ministries other than his own. An "invisible government" was operating in Sri Lanka while the economy was heading for crisis.

In a Cabinet reshuffle on March 10, Mr Bandaranaike received the food and cooperative portfolio in addition to finance, after the resignation from the Government of Mr Tikiri Banda Subasinghe, the Industries Minister.—Reuter.

Civil protest in Pakistan cities leads to arrests

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, March 14

Crowds protesting against the alleged rigging of the general election clashed with the police today in Karachi and a number were reported injured on both sides.

Police fired tear gas shells and made repeated charges to disperse the demonstrators in one of the city's busiest shopping areas. Several arrests were reported.

In Peshawar, two opposition leaders, the Begum Nasim Wali Khan, wife of the Pathan leader of the outlawed National Awami Party, and Maulana Mufid Mahmud are taken into custody as they led a group of people demonstrating in the street. They were later released.

Another procession in Lahore, led by Air Marshal Asghar Khan, was allowed to proceed. Several local opposition leaders were arrested in Rawalpindi when, in response to a call by the Pakistan National Alliance to defy the ban, they came out in group to voice their resentment at the conduct of the election. A bus was burnt.

Army and other security personnel have been mobilized in cities to assist the authorities to enforce law and order. According to police reports, several hundred people have been arrested throughout the country.



Defiant gesture from Mr Hanafis Abdul Khaal yesterday outside his sect's headquarters.

Leader of Hanafis stays free

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, March 14

The leader of the terrorist group which held more than 100 hostages here last week and killed a young reporter was today booked on a charge of armed kidnapping and allowed to go home.

Mr Hanafis Abdul Khaalis is patriarch of the Manafis Muslims, a small dissident group which broke away from the Black Muslims some years ago and from mid-day last Wednesday to early Friday morning they occupied three buildings in the heart of Washington.

The continued freedom of Mr Khaalis was one of the conditions of their surrender.

Three of his followers who held hostages at the Islamic Centre are also free without bail but eight others who seized part of the District Building (Washington's town hall) are detained on bail of between \$50,000 (£30,000) and \$75,000.

It was at the District Building that a black reporter for a university radio station was killed in an outburst of shooting. Hostages have reported hearing remarks by the terrorists suggesting they were trying to seize the mayor and also a prominent member of the council, who escaped after being wounded in the firing.

The mayor barricaded himself in his office as did other officials on the 10th floor. There has been much criticism of the judge's decision to let some of the terrorists free. He did so under a provision of the law code of the District of Columbia which allows most people accused of crimes to go free until they come to trial.

There has been less criticism of Mr Khaalis's provisional liberty, because it is generally accepted that the negotiator's chief concern was the safety of the hostages.

Those Hanafis still free continue to live in the house on 16th Street next to a synagogue where seven members of the sect, five of them children, were murdered by Black Muslims in 1973. This was the event which has incensed Mr Khaalis: during the sieges last week he demanded that the murderers be delivered to him so that he could execute them.

The house is heavily guarded by police. Mr Khaalis has agreed not to leave Washington or to talk to the press. Some of his family, however, have been issuing new threats against society because the film *Mohammed, Messenger of God*, which they consider blasphemous, is being shown. During the sieges last week they demanded that it be stopped and showings were suspended.

Mr Andrew Young, the American representative at the United Nations, has criticized the newspapers' radio and television for their coverage of the story. He alleges that giving these stories such prominence encourages other psychopaths to emulate the terrorists.

Kenyan bishops call for action on Amin regime

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, March 14

Anglican bishops in Kenya met here today to review events in Uganda and expressed concern at the absence of international action to investigate atrocities there. They called on President Amin to stop what they described as a wanton abuse of power.

The bishops, headed by the Archbishop of Kenya, the Most Rev. Festo Olang, called on the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations to set up immediately an international police force to intervene in Uganda and help to restore law and order there.

The OAU also want the OAU to establish a commission which would have the right to visit any member state in future to investigate complaints regarding human rights.

Calling on all Christians and peace-loving people to pray for Uganda, the bishops announced their support for a meeting of heads of all churches in Africa, as already proposed by the All-Africa Conference of Churches.

This meeting, which is now certain to take place although its date and location have not been decided, will seek to persuade African heads of state to bring pressure to bear on Uganda to respond to international waves of criticism aroused by the deaths of the Anglican archbishop and many other Christians there.

The flow of refugees from Uganda continues, with hundreds entering Kenya, Tanzania, Zaire and Sudan daily. Wellington, New Zealand's Prime Minister, said today that President Amin was a maniac, but there was no way to stop him maturing the Commonwealth conference in London in June.

Torture victims: Mr Charles Balidawa, the 27-year-old Ugandan pilot who is seeking refuge in Britain from the regime of President Amin, spoke yesterday of torture victims he had seen, "some of whom were just as good as dead".

Mr Balidawa was speaking after a two-hour meeting with Home Office officials in Crandon, Surrey, who provided a "quick decision" on his plan to stay in Britain. His wife Dinah and baby Patricia are ready to join him from their refuge in Nairobi if Mr Mervyn Rees grants his request.

Speaking of the activities of Uganda's State Research Bureau, he said: "I was taken to the bureau's headquarters in handcuffs and I saw, with my own eyes, what was happening. I saw people who had been badly beaten. I saw the sorrow on their faces."

"Once you get to that place they have no reason to keep anything from you. Although I saw no dead person, there were some who were just as good as dead."

His own arrest came some after he was proclaimed a national hero by President Amin for landing his aircraft carrying a party of British during a storm.

"Amin personality is generally dealing with killings on a big scale," he said. "Some people 'disappeared' on President Amin's orders, or those of his senior aides, but others were chosen by the powerful bureau men 'at random'."

Charles Balidawa, the pilot seeking refuge.

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, March 14

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Oval Office doors in a spin with visiting foreign leaders

From Fred Emery
Washington, March 14

Foreign leaders are once again making the entrance to the Oval Office look like a revolving door.

Hard on Mr Callaghan's heels comes Dr Otto Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, who will be succeeded today by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister. Later this week Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, arrives.

At this point Herr Genscher's visit looks the most urgent. Last evening, a Sunday, Mr Genscher, who is conceding Dr Pohl's office, the Secretary of State, Relations between the two countries are reported by American correspondents in Bonn to be in some malaise.

American officials affect surprise, but there is little question that Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, does not feel himself to be on the same wavelength with President Carter as he did with President Ford.

One main difference appears in economic policy. In spite of Mr Callaghan's backing for faster stimulus of the German, Japanese and American economies, and his confidence that the best interchangeable parts of the world are being determined not to let matters run away.

The Chancellor's representative, Herr Karl-Otto Pohl, attended Saturday's Washington meeting to prepare for the Downing Street economics summit in May. But it seems that an underlying difference was not raised.

There is also vexation in Bonn over the Carter Administration's opposition to its sale to Brazil of nuclear power facilities. The weapons proliferation problem, the United States are said to be shared in Bonn, but there is apparently no meeting of minds on the question of guarantees.

Reports that an agreement to keep quiet the conditions being imposed on Brazil have broken down straight from the airport to the office of Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State. Relations between the two countries are reported by American correspondents in Bonn to be in some malaise.

American officials affect surprise, but there is little question that Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, does not feel himself to be on the same wavelength with President Carter as he did with President Ford.

One main difference appears in economic policy. In spite of Mr Callaghan's backing for faster stimulus of the German, Japanese and American economies, and his confidence that the best interchangeable parts of the world are being determined not to let matters run away.

Mr Davies puts the Tory view in Washington

By Our Diplomatic
Correspondent

Mr John Davies, the Conservative spokesman on foreign affairs, gave Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, quite a different message in Washington yesterday from that delivered last week by Dr David Owen, the new Foreign Secretary.

Conservative foreign policy is beginning to diverge quite sharply from Labour's position and Mr Davies is keen to emphasize the differences. If he has his way, foreign policy will become a political issue again.

Mr Davies is conceding Dr Owen a few years, and perhaps some punching power (though his opponent is not going to set the Commons on fire as an orator, either). But he is taking a vigorous approach. His main criticism of Labour's attitude is that it has been weak and half-hearted, and that a more active role by Britain is overdue.

In Washington this week he will see most of the leading figures in the Administration. He regards relations with the United States as more important than with any other country, though he sees himself as "an international industrialist" by upbringing and a committed European by deepest convictions.

He cites three or four areas where Labour's approach has, in his view, been lacking. First and most serious is Rhodesia. The Government was too slow to get moving, too slow to get the conference started, and too slow to tackle the substantive issues. The result was that the Kissinger plan never had a chance.

Mr Davies thinks the Kissinger plan (which Mr Ian Smith still stands by) is the best hope. He does not support a recent suggestion by a previous Conservative Foreign Secretary, Lord Avon, that Mr Smith's attempt to negotiate an internal solution is the right way. "Bishop Muzorewa would risk being shot the next day," he is short verdict.

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Indonesia to buy all its arms from the West

Jakarta, March 14.—Mr Adam Malik, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, said today his country would no longer order arms from communist countries but would rebuild its forces with Western supplies.

"The time has come to rebuild the Indonesian military might," he said. "We have ordered warships from Holland and other weapons from Mexico. Perhaps heavy armaments from the United States will follow. We just wait for President Carter."

Much Soviet equipment, including MiG jets, became useless when the Russians stopped supplying spare parts after the abortive communist coup in Indonesia in 1965.—Reuter.

Mr Anikulapo-Kuti's residence, a fee-free living commune called the "Kalakuta Republic" that houses upwards of 100 people in a slum section of Lagos, was raided by several hundred soldiers on February 28 after an altercation between a band member and a soldier over a traffic violation.

The house was burnt and several dozen occupants were beaten by the soldiers. According to members of the commune, one girl subsequently died at a university hospital. Women alleged that they were sexually molested while held prisoner.

The raid has prompted widespread concern over the absence of civil liberties under the military regime. Only last week, the Nigerian Bar Association offered free services to any Nigerian harassed by the Army. The raid on the commune, it was explained, was not the only clash between civilians and military that had moved them to speak out.

Responding to pressure, the Government set up a special tribunal to take evidence about the raid in public at a theatre. When I attended a public session of this tribunal last Thursday and was seen taking notes, reports that was published two months ago.

Because no stories about igeria have appeared in *The New York Times* for several weeks, it was believed that the Government's action was related to a sensitive case involving the prosecution of a dissident and well-known Nigerian musician, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti.

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Shopping/Robin Young

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the business of jubilees, we at *The Times* have some special responsibility. We have through our columns that the first heart of the jubilee is the modern imagination.

Why then, did the man chiefly responsible was a respondent who hid his true identity under the pseudonym Jubal. His letter appeared on September 13, 1969, and asked the coming of George III's 250th jubilee year. In 1886 we played part once more: on this occasion it was Lord Braye of Leicester who produced the cue for celebration of the jubilee that Queen Victoria had been served to the nation for 50 consecutive years.

anybody: it is quite likely to be a throwaway, as well as fun, to keep a record for anything that is amusing. I regret, for instance, that I have not yet been able to trace any commemorative soap. The last I heard in this country was produced for the jubilee of Britain. There are, however, candles from Alpenhof Design, on-on-Wye, or Celtic Crafts, Dingle, Kerry, Ireland, and a pewter keyring (£2.25) from Laughing Monarch, Lynack, St Just, Cornwall.

There might be interest in almost anything in years to come. Bonham's just auctioned a collection of royal commemorative and patriotic clay pipes of 37 of them fetched £931. Seventy are on, for example, a Parisian one of Edward VII was worth £55.

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gardeners: Hettler and Sons, of 100, 101, Winchester, will be glad to send you a list of the surprisingly large number of silver-foliated trees and shrubs they have available for the planting in return for a large stamped addressed envelope. And you could get years of use from handsome planters in reconstituted limestone by Arcady Stoneware, of George's Road, Abbots Leigh, Avon. They are dressed with the crown motif on the sides, and rope moulding at the top, and the larger (24in diameter) one sells at about £25.80.

You will also be able to make your own souvenir for under £1. Brass Rubbing Plates Ltd, who set up shop in a dining number of cathedral cities such as Exeter, have commissioned a silver blue brass engraved by Ray Hedger, Fairford. Copies will be in York, Swadlow, Chichester, Gloucester, Coventry, Edinburgh, Oxford, Stratford and other centres this summer, available for rubbing at less than £1 a go, including all the lampblack you need.

It does not seem quite right that one of the most ingenious and novel jubilee special issues should come from Kaiser Porcelain, but there you are.

It looks a bit like an accident that the potter's wheel because it is turned symmetrically so that the upper part forms inverse profile portraits of the Queen and Prince Philip facing one another.

The porcelain was built from Bavaria, but the designer—Judy Cousins, who made the piece originally only for her own amusement—is based in Windsor, and nothing could be more appropriate. The edition is limited to 500. They cost £75 each, from Kaiser Porcelain, 246 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1.

strictly mean feasts, and feasts unfortunately usually mean a pile of silverware. For convenience's sake, then, there will be interest in Cross Pottery's jubilee matching sets of plates, napkins, cups and tablecloths. The set has the jubilee emblem in blue, and silver grey on a white background, and settings for 25 will cost £3.15, for 100 under £10, at Cross Pottery's department stores including all branches of W. H. Smith. One memento will actually help in the production of festive fare. David Mellor's gingerbread queen cutter, masquerading with a Quentin Blake design and a recipe for gingerbread, will enable you to have memorable puns at all your parties.

Originally produced for the decorative food exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, it is still on sale at their shop, and at David Mellor's at Sloane Square, SW1. Suitably for something so cheerful, it is also cheap.

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Katie Stewart
Dumplings
to suet
everyone

have no idea how sea pie got its name because there is nothing fishy about it at all. In fact, sea pie is a beef and vegetable stew with a layer of suet pastry on top that cooks into a light dumpling crust. Perhaps it was a favourite with sailors, or more likely with army cooks because you prepare it all in one pan, which makes it ideal when space is limited, and you serve it straight from the cooking pot.

Suet pastry is the basis of a dumpling mixture and it is easy to make. There is no "rubbing" the ingredients are just mixed together. Like other stews the proportions are half a pound of suet to a pound of beef, and a half pound of suet to a pound of beef. The proportions and type of vegetables used can be varied according to taste.

Fry the meat in the hot dripping until browned on all sides

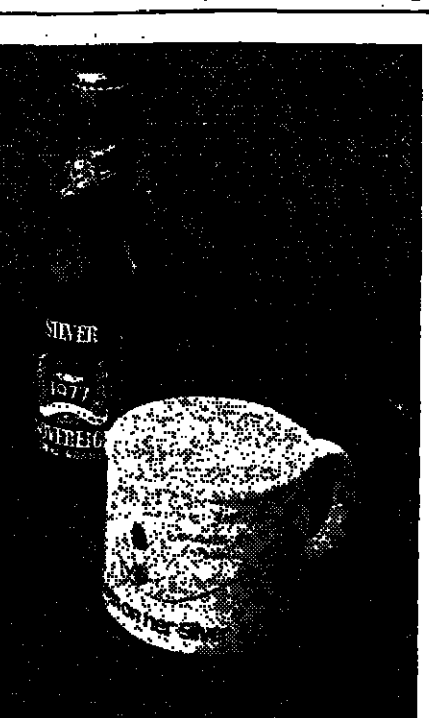
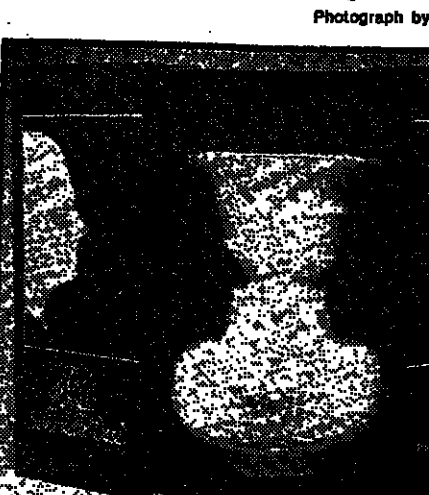
You shall not say we shirk our historic function now. Even so, conscious as I am that this is the third in a series of articles devoted to jubilee commemorabilia, I must hasten to encourage those whose enthusiasm may already be beginning to flag.

The purpose of this article will be to show that the best in royal mementoes need not be the most expensive, and that while some of the ware commissioned to mark the occasion may be stately, a lot more is merely fun.

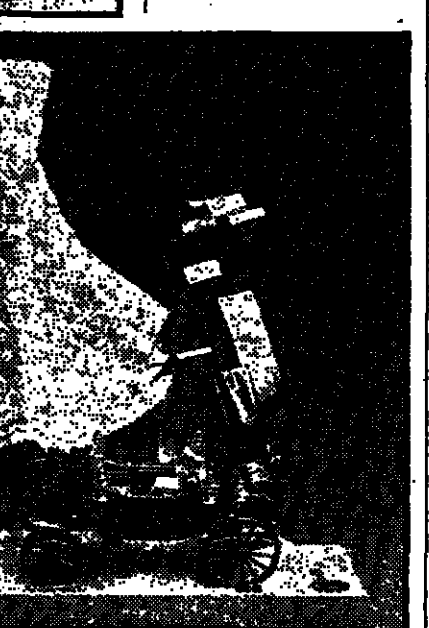
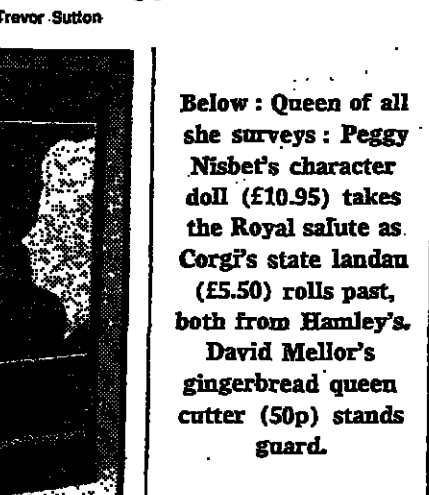
We will by no means exhaust the field even now. The Commemorative Collectors Society has already catalogued nearly 400 silver jubilee items of interest to its 3,500 members. Some 300 have been chosen for inclusion in



Above, from left to right: a Hammsley bone china box filled with English honey (£6.75 plus 70p postage and packing from Robert Jackson, 172 Piccadilly); a ginger jar which doubles as a jubilee tea caddy at Fortnum and Mason; Young's Silver Sovereign commemorative brew; and the Royal College of Art mug, from Liberty's. Below, in its presentation box, Judy Cousins's royal silhouette vase for Kaiser Porcelain makes one of the most ingenious and diverting jubilee souvenirs.



Below: Queen of all the surveys: Peggy Nisbet's character doll (£10.95) takes the Royal salute as Corgi's state landau (£5.50) rolls past, both from Hamley's. David Mellor's gingerbread queen cutter (50p) stands guard.



—use a medium-sized saucepan. Add the prepared vegetables and stock. Simmer gently, with a lid to cover, for about 1½ hours to almost cook the meat and give the contents of the pan an occasional stir. Sift the flour and salt for the suet topping into a basin. Add the suet and mix together. Using a fork, stir in enough cold water to make a soft, but not sticky, dough. Mix to a rough dough that leaves the sides of the basin clean and turn out on to a lightly floured board. Pat or roll out to a circle a little smaller than the pan—use the lid as a guide. Place the suet crust on top of the simmering contents and replace the lid. Cook for a further 3-4 hours until the pastry has risen and cooked. Serve straight from the pan by cutting into the dumpling crust. Individual dumplings are smaller and cook more quickly. When light and fluffy they make a marvellous addition to any casserole, but a lot of people go wrong with dumplings because they boil the liquid for cooking them too fast. Remember that it is a very light mixture of half suet to flour and if cooked too quickly dumplings will disintegrate. They should be added to a simmering liquid. Traditionally, dumplings were always cooked in a top-of-the-

their exhibition, Jubilee Royal, which opens at Goldsmiths' Hall on May 10 and will later tour Edinburgh, Cardiff and Sheffield.

If you want to be absolutely certain of getting your money back once the jubilees are over, you cannot do better, of course, than invest in the 25,000,000 silver jubilee crowns which will be available as coins of the realm from today. They will always be worth their face value of 25p and should appreciate modestly as time passes. The 1972 silver wedding crown is currently catalogued at 45p in un-circulated condition, and the coronation one is £1.75.

More speculatively a collectors' silver version of the jubilee minting

can be ordered by mail from the Royal Mint Numismatic Bureau at Llantrisant, Mid-Glamorgan. They are £12.50 each, and should have more staying power than kruggerands.

On the other hand take warning that it is quite possible to buy now some of the most expensive of the 25p worth of goods thrust on the market to commemorate the Queen's silver wedding, remembered at one quarter of the original price. Future collectors are likely to prefer things which are attractively and durably made, setting a special premium on items which bear the silver jubilee emblem or better still an up-to-date royal portrait. The best rule for you and me, though, is to buy only what we actually like or can use.

Elizabeth II is a beautiful doll. This year, in fact, she is rather an embarrassing sight, a rather a doll, but there is one by the inimitable Peggy Nisbet, which is limited to only 500 copies yet sells at the surprisingly inflated price of £10.95 which is modest indeed for a queen.

You can also have Her Majesty with Prince Philip, aboard the 1902 state landau complete with horses and outriders. It is modelled by Corgi, and enlivened by the addition of one of the royal pets tagging faithfully along behind (£15.50).

The rate of mugging is rising fast for the jubilee. Long the most popular form of commemorative ware, souvenir mugs for this occasion will be available for prices from 45p.

It will be worth paying the extra for something a little different, though, and one mug—based on a seven-year-old drawing—stands out from all the others. It originates from the Royal College of Art and was one of the (few) successes of the Design Council's jubilee souvenir exhibition. The Design Centre stock it, as do Liberty's, at £1.50.

Those with a soft spot for the Poet Laureate will be delighted to hear that, however awful some might have declared his jubilee hymn to be, at least one other thing about the chorus good enough to stick on a mug. More properly what Mercian China are making should be described as a handle-less beaker, and when it is available shortly it is likely to cost about £5. They have special plates to commemorate the Queen's jubilee trips to Tonga, Australia and New Zealand, too. The address is 38 Union Street, Burton-on-Trent.

If you want to dress up for jubilee Tootal have produced a tie sufficiently stylish to win approval; Harrods will have a complete range, including some discreet designs based on the figures 25 by Paul Salgo; and if you do not wear a tie, Hamleys have strong colours for children's children at prices from £1.65 to £2.20 according to size.

And if you want a flag to run up the garden pole, or a banner to string across the street, Black's of Greenock emblem in three colour schemes and three sizes, from £7.70 plus V.A.T., but they can also make any special requirement up to order if you contact them at 53 Rathbone Place, W1.

After the commemorative crown, the cheapest viable souvenir, and a nicely traditional one, is a bottle of beer. A number of commemorative brews are available, the first I came across being Courage's Silver Jubilee Ale, ninth in a series the brewery have produced to mark events in the Queen's life since she married in 1947.

At the same appropriate price, 25p, or a crown as was Young and Co. of the Ram Brewery, Wandsworth, have produced Silver Sovereign with a little added appeal. The original gravity, 1077, has been chosen so that the last two digits match the present date. But if even that is not strong enough for you, Ansell's, Tetley's and Ind Coopers have all produced strong ales with original gravities of 1098 degrees and over.

Correction: In her Shopping column on February 15, Sheila Black should have placed the astronomer Ptolemy in the second century AD—and not BC.

Elizabeth Smart is alive and well and still writing

More than 30 years ago Elizabeth Smart wrote *Sp Grand Central Station I see down and Weyt*. It is a short novel, about 128 pages, and it relates the grandest of passions between a man and two women, one of them his wife—a love both despairing and triumphant upon which the reader may gaze, awed, appalled, or even, perhaps, envious. Without much didactic regard at the time it was published ("a trivial and undeserving subject," said *The Times*, unperceptively), it has become a book growing in stature and acclaim over the years. It has been out of print since 1943, although Panther published it as a paperback in 1966. Now it is to be republished, probably in May this year.

But what of Elizabeth Smart? Two years ago, she says, "it was the beginning of nice things happening again. A young artist read her book and asked: 'Is Elizabeth Smart alive or dead?' then set about finding out. He got his clues wrong, because he wrote to the American Embassy," but they met. She was not, as he thought, "Most people don't care if I am alive or dead, but somebody did."

Now her second book, a collection of poems called *A Bonus*, has just been published (Polystar Press, 121 Farnham Street, London, W9, £1.95), the end of a long silence. Her first book she hardly remembers. "I was in my early 20s, and it was published in wartime—they thought nobody was ever going to read books in wartime, but they were wrong. I think there were only about 2,000 copies printed, and then it was never seen again—I couldn't feel that it had ever happened, and therefore never thought that anybody read it. I never saw any reviews."

She has always thought of herself as a writer—although she found it difficult to describe herself as a writer. "I have only written one book, in a short one at that. I thought I might say I was Sebastian Barker's mother—he writes, and reads—and that explains you. People want some explanation, and you have to have something ready to give them."

Explaining, Elizabeth Smart in a short neat sentence of introduction would be beyond the capacity of any writer, however talented. She was born in Ottawa. "I always knew that I was going to be a writer—I was a writer at 10, published in a local newspaper. I was much more arrogant then. By the time I was 13 I felt it was all over."

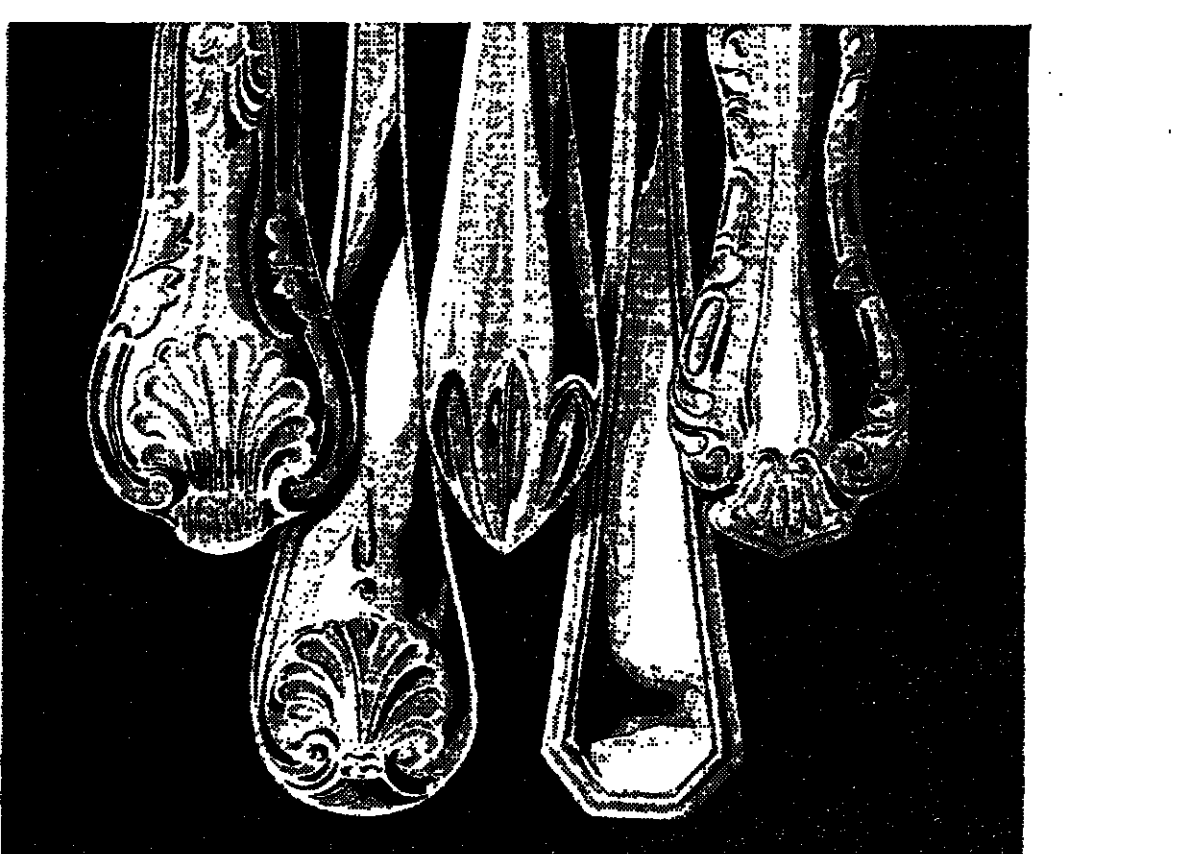
Her mother would not allow her to go to university—"She didn't think it was ladylike"—but could not prevent her from taking a job on the *Ottawa Journal*. "I got paid about \$2.50—I wrote for the women's page—those terrible social pages interviewing people and asking members of Parliament how many hats they had. I even had a byline. When I asked for more money they said that as I lived at home I didn't need much and raised it to \$3. My mother disapproved of work—she was always trying to seduce me into not going—breakfast in bed, why didn't I wait till the afternoon? I'd write two and a half lines, and the rest would be names, all of which had to be spelled correctly. The city editor would say, look it up, look it up! It was fantastically good training."

The fantastically good training proved to be a lifetime. She brought up her two sons and two daughters by herself, not marrying their father, the poet George Barker. "My first job in England was as a sub-editor on *House and Garden*—which I didn't know how to do, but I had this interest in semi-colons, and I used to write half the issue for about £9 a week, rising to £11. It's nice being poor as long as it doesn't go on too long—that's what the rich don't understand about the poor."

"I then did Shophound for Audrey Withers at *Vogue*. I had to get a local woman to look after the children—I paid her £3 and *Vogue* paid me £2.50." Audrey Withers said she would just have to get up at four or five in the morning (citing the example of another working woman). "I can get up, but I can't write—nothing doing in the early morning." For years she did at least three jobs at once, in journalism, and in advertising. "My articles got more and more delayed. I'd clear the whole weekend, and then couldn't start till 12 o'clock on Sunday night—I'd be working about two o'clock, and find myself running all the way there in the morning thinking, 'I had the whole weekend when I could have done it.'"

Then she went to work for *Queen* magazine. "Jocelyn Stevens said I was the most expensive sub-editor he ever had. That was a lot of fun—really lovely. I was there 11 years. I liked him a lot, and there was Dennis Hackett, a really great editor." She was literary editor of *Queen* when she decided to go and live in the country in Suffolk, some 12 years ago. Since then, she has

Philipa Toomey



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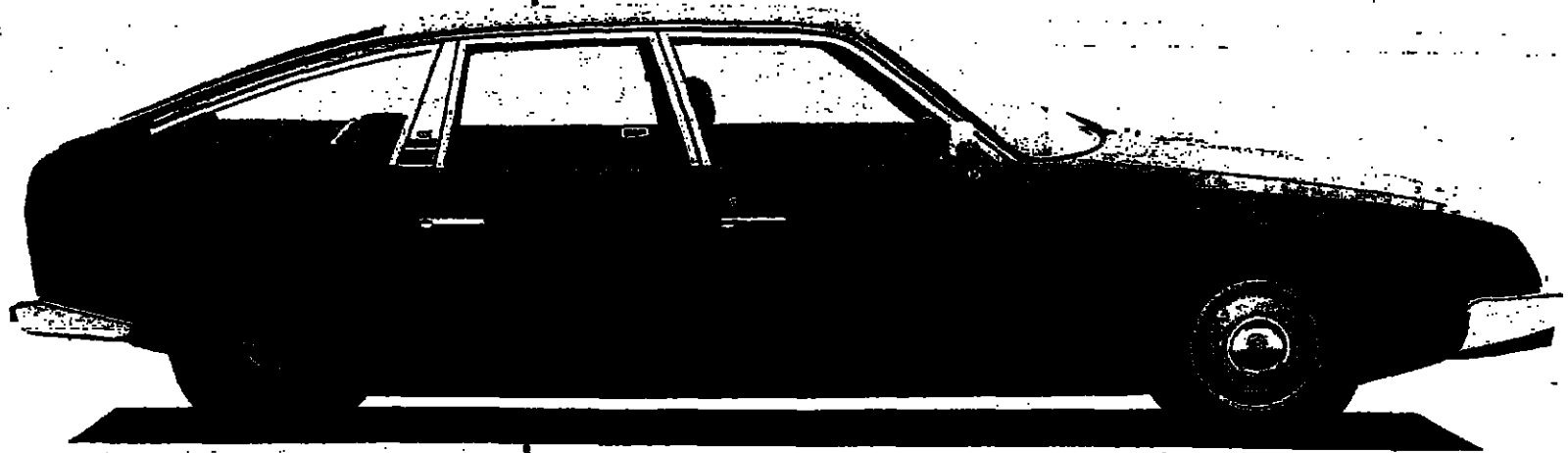
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Whilst the executives of monolithic corporations will undoubtedly continue to have fleets of uniformly characterless company cars imposed upon them, an opportunity exists for the principals of less bureaucratic organisations to make capital of size and project an individualistic image with a more inspired choice.

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THE COMPANY SECRETARY: CITROËN CX 2000.

Value for money is the one factor that over-rides all else in the Citroën CX 2000.

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(In return for a somewhat higher price, the Citroën CX 2400 offers rather more power and an even more luxurious finish that includes electrically operated front windows.)

THE SALES DIRECTOR: CITROËN CX DIESEL.

At a constant 55 mph the Citroën CX 2200 Diesel returns 44.83 mpg, a point that will be no small consideration for many motorists.

Another important feature which figures highly in making this dignified saloon attractive for drivers is summed up in the words of CAR magazine: "The CX isn't just a worthy addition to the diesel ranks, it's the quietest and smoothest diesel yet."

THE MARKETING DIRECTOR: CITROËN CX SAFARI ESTATE.

The Citroën CX 2400 Safari is a triumphant refusal by Citroën designers to accept that estate cars must appear like cumbersome hulks reminiscent of World War II army vehicles.

Elegant lines belie a rugged nature. A staggering weight load of more than half a ton can be accommodated in its mind-boggling interior capacity: 72 cu.ft. with the rear seat folded forward.

(For those who prefer diesel, the Citroën CX 2200 Safari is a faithful long-service workhorse.)

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR: CITROËN CX PALLAS.

Unabashed luxury is the overwhelming impression conveyed by the Citroën CX Pallas.

The front windows are electrically operated and rear passengers can enjoy the convenience of two reading lights. Extras available include air-conditioning, leather upholstery, tinted windows and C-matic transmission. C-matic eliminates the clutch pedal and transmission is achieved by use of a torque converter fluid coupling with automatic operation.

THE CHAIRMAN: CITROËN CX PRESTIGE.

C-matic is standard on the CX Prestige, Citroën's ultimate limousine. In length it measures 9' more than other CX saloons and the rear doors are 7' wider.

Four stereophonic speakers, tinted windows and air-conditioning are standard. All window winders are electrically operated. Upholstered footrests are provided for the rear passengers and the rear window has translucent sunblinds.

THE SYSTEM FOR ALLOCATING COMPANY CARS SHOULD GO BY THE BOARD.

THE ARTS

Pictures at the Pompidou

Before contributing to the immense wordage on the Pompidou Centre, it must be pointed out that much which has been written has been silly and confused. In France it has been attacked from both left and right. Much comment from abroad has been typical and Francophobic and no doubt largely based on envy. Just as it is not true, or no more so than of any other country, this one in particular, that France's foreign policy since the war has been motivated purely by self-interest, so it is absurd to say, as many have done, that the only motive for the building of the Centre was an attempt to reassert French cultural supremacy.

In fact the development of the Beaubourg Centre has been marked by a remarkable absence of chauvinism—in the appointment, for instance, of Pontus Hultén, former director of the Moderna Museet in Stockholm, as head of the Musée d'Art Moderne which forms the largest part of the main building.

There has been a curious confusion between the building at Beaubourg, and the demolition of the Gare d'Orléans. Although quite close to the Halles area, the site of the Centre was never part of it and is separated from it by the Boulevard de Sébastopol. Although there was a certain amount of demolition, the larger part of the site was for many years a car park. Before that it was one of the worst and most insanitary slums in Paris.

It has been said that the building of a cultural prestige centre has created an influx of antique dealers and art galleries into the historic, and largely protected, quarter of the Marais, displacing the small businesses and workshops that used to be there and the working-class people who lived above them. It is true that this has happened. Yet exactly the same thing is taking place now in Covent Garden, where no great cultural prestige centre has been built, nor seems likely to be in the near future.

Many journalists have pointed out that Parisians have taken to calling the Centre "the refinery" or "the factory". This suggests that people see it as a piece of pure technology rather than as architecture. But the architects themselves have stated that this is what they wanted, sensing that the men in the street had lost confidence in architecture but not in technology. And however Parisians may

describe it, thousands of them have been flocking into the Centre in the six weeks it has been open.

What the architects have produced is a genuinely democratic structure. Despite its huge size it does not dominate the old buildings around it, nor the people who enter it. It is not all that high and because of its horizontal emphasis looks even less high than it is. Because it is "inside-out" it tempts one to go in, unlike the majority of modern museums.

The permanent collection of the Musée d'Art Moderne has been greatly enlarged by purchases and supplemented by loans for its transfer to Beaubourg. The Kandinskys and Delaunays are particularly good. You can look at Delaunay's *Tower* paintings and then glance out of the windows at the Tower itself rising superbly above the Paris rooftops—an experience matched only at the Eiffel where you can look at a Florentine painting with a Tuscan landscape in the background and look through a window and see an almost identical view.

In an area where topography has become mandatory and universally dehumanizing, separating art from life, to find a new museum with no top light at all is an exhilarating experience.

Many of the works by Marcel Duchamp exhibited on the top floor of the centre, like *The Large Glass*, *Nine Male Nudes* and *Bride*, which bear a curious resemblance to the building itself. It is usually held that Duchamp's attitude to technology was cynical and satirical, rather than the naive enthusiasm of the Futurists and the optimism of Delaunay or Léger. In fact Duchamp's stance was highly ambiguous; one suspects that technology interested him more than human beings.

His work has become the delight of scholars and the writers of footnotes; he became an art history industry in his own lifetime. The retrospective exhibition reflects all this with its elaborate reconstructions and re-creations. It contains a very full representation of Duchamp's early work which shows him to have been a sensitive and talented painter. Having given up painting he became a witty cerebralist of art. His later work is like the game he loved to play, but not in technology and sophisticated but ultimately leaving one with a sense

of intellectual exhaustion and emptiness.

André Derain is the kind of painter Duchamp might have declined to exhibit if he had not given up painting. His early Fauve pictures are brisk and vigorous, although less vibrant and exciting than those of Matisse. His later work became refined and dull, with the exception of a few fine nudes painted in the early Twenties in monumental style which show a deep respect and understanding of women, in particular *Nude in Front of a Green Curtain* and *Nude with a Cat*, both with full and fulfilled bodies and beautiful expressions.

André Masson's importance was as a pioneer of automatic means of making pictures using processes of chance. His work was shown in the United States in Surrealist exhibitions in the late Thirties and he spent the war years there. He influenced Pollock and the Abstract Expressionists. But most of his work of that period is an unappealing combination of the tasteless and the vulgar peculiar to many of the Surrealists. The best pictures are the paintings with sand made in the late Twenties. They have a delicate quality, allusive and elusive, which hardens in the Thirties into a garish eclecticism. His later, postwar work was like a parody of his own earlier paintings and those of the artists he had influenced.

The Masson exhibition is at the Grand Palais, although organized by the Musée d'Art Moderne. It continues until May 2, as does the Duchamp show at the Beaubourg Centre, which is at present open from 3 pm to 10 pm (eventually from 10 am to 10 pm) and closed on Tuesdays. The Derain exhibition is also at the Grand Palais and continues until April 11.

Last Tuesday I had hoped to write on the exhibits and film shows at the Hayward Gallery. There is only room here to recommend the screenings of event-garde and artists' films, many of them sponsored by the Arts Council (ring the Hayward or see *Time Out* for programmes and times) and the three exhibitions, in particular the superb show of photographs by Edward Weston.

The retrospective of Agnes Martin and Ian Stevenson also deserve serious attention. The exhibitions continue until April 24.

Paul Overy Marcel Duchamp: *Bride*, 1912



A genius at just being herself

Peggy Lee
London Palladium

Miles Kingston

There is nothing very spectacular about Peggy Lee except that she happens to have about the finest voice of any female in popular music. She is, in fact, a genius at just being herself. It is not quite so easy to explain just why Peggy Lee gets by with only a great voice. It is natural, unforced and direct, but then the big advantage that popular singers enjoy over their concert counterparts is that they are all natural and direct.

Where most of them let themselves down, though, is in pushing that naturalness to the utmost, whether in becoming melodramatic like Shirley Bassey or too perfect like Celine Dion. Peggy Lee is a genius at just being herself, in the same way that a very good actress does. She is always like that. Her physical gestures, like her vocal flourishes, are all small, exact and twice as effective as if they were on the grand scale.

Her version of "Mack the Knife" on Sunday, for instance, was the only one I have ever heard that did not develop into a heavy-weight brass band parade; she controlled it the whole way through, acting it, singing it beautifully, and making you think you had never heard the song before.

Judging from the reaction of the audience (recognize introduction, clap, sit back snugly) many of the songs were old hits of hers. But this was the first time I had ever heard her in person and all those familiar items sounded to me as if she was singing them delightfully and freshly for the first time. I cannot imagine a better tribute to a legend and a genius.

She was beautifully accompanied by an orchestra under the leadership of Jack Parnell which in the first half had treated us to an anthology of great big band hits from Count Basie's "Kid From Red Bank" to Benny Goodman's "Sing, Sing, Sing". All good stuff, especially when Kenny Baker and Ronnie Verrell were featured, but I could not help thinking halfway through Peggy Lee's set that the greatest joy of all would be to hear her just with a trio, close up and totally intimately. You do not fill the Albert Hall that way, though.

A virtue was made of strong, precise, springing rhythms in the ninth symphony, to special purpose in the embellished returns of the Adagio's first theme. Mr. Haitink approached that movement with an expansive, the Scherzo well up to speed, even with a trace of unsteadiness. The Double Fugue in the finale went so fast that running quavers turned into a blur, perhaps an acoustical hazard since some soft entries in the fifth symphony began inaudibly.

The choral finale found the London Philharmonic Chorus in bold yet sensitive form, and introduced an excellent solo quartet of Jill Gomers (splendid in her role as the difficult phrase), Sandra Browne, David Kendall and Gwynne Howell, warmly blended, distinctive as individuals.

Haitink, it could be observed, does not wholly disdain the retouched scoring of great conductors since his first tenure, he has been so puritanical to forgo unspecified acceleration and retardation in the interests of structural tension. He is fundamentally a loyal but not a heartless Beethovenite.

dream-like nature of the vision, and he managed to sustain a flow of tone within a very slow tempo. For the night's opening "Der Atlas" he found the necessary strength, and he dimmed the lights to a very low level, sufficient continuity troubled him in other contexts too.

"Das Fischermädchen" in its turn was one of several songs which cried out for more tonal radiance. Claudio Abbado, no less, seemed to flatten his pitch more than a few times.

Again in the Relistab settings it was often on Mr. Parsons at the piano that we had to rely for gleams of light. But the piano was very keenly conveyed, and Mr. Parsons also made much of "Kriegers Ahnung" without exteriorizing its drama.

The programme began with five 1826 Seidl settings. Yet again, and especially in "In Freier", it was the keyboard that brought the tonal radiance. But Mr. Parsons was tender and touching in "Sehnsucht" and "Am Fenster".

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

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Janet Baker: a new challenge

Janet Baker sings Massenet for the first time in public when the English National Opera stages *Werther* at a gala performance tomorrow. The demure Charlotte of Massenet and Goethe, who is thrown out of her small-town routine by the arrival of the poet Werther, seems some way off Dame Janet's normal operatic roster of down-trodden princesses and queens.

"But that is just why I am singing the part," she replies. Late romantic French opera is a new period and style for me, and so a new challenge. I love doing fresh things and so on at the right opportunities occur I snatch at them. All singers are likely to suffer from being put into special boxes and neatly labelled. And when this happens it's up to you to get yourself out of the box.

So Janet Baker has had her difficulties? "From time to time, yes. At the beginning of my career I was assured that my voice was an alto not a mezzo, until Anthony Lewis and Ben Britten persuaded me to the contrary. People came up and said 'My goodness, your voice had gone up'. It hadn't. Previously I was just not using it properly."

"It was at that period I began to hate being told I couldn't do this and I couldn't do that. I was being put in a box and made me all the more determined to prise the lid off. I remember there was an audition in the early Sixties when I sang a performance of the *Werther*. It was not that I was particularly good or particularly bad, but that Schoenberg was not considered 'my sort of music'."

A few years later when Scottish Opera asked me to sing *Dorabella* in *Don Juan*, I accepted without hesitation. It didn't occur to me that there were those who thought that I couldn't sing the role, and I wasn't in the least surprised that it came reasonably easily. Does that sound arrogant? It's not meant to. A singer should have a pretty complete idea of what he or she can achieve. Just because you keep a straight face on the oratorio platform it doesn't necessarily follow that you have to be humourless on stage."

Dorabella led to *Der Rosenkavalier* and *The Trojans*. The offers came in from abroad and Janet Baker turned them all down. "In some ways I was being treated as an opera-tyro by those who had forgotten my days in the Glyndebourne chorus and my earliest engagements such as singing the Sorcerer to Joan Hammond's *Dido in Purcell*. At the same time there was pressure to become an international opera-singer, with some European houses giving me *carte blanche* on the choice of role."

"Perhaps I had been spoilt by Glyndebourne and by Scottish Opera, where I was given a chance to rehearse fully, to grow into a new production. But I think the real reason for my refusal to sing opera overseas—and there will be no reversing that decision—is that I have seen too many colleagues ruined by letting from



dam about your voice except you guard it with your life."

Janet Baker speaks vehemently about the voice talent is not being nurtured and developed properly. But when the conversation turns back to Massenet and Charlotte, to herself in fact, she immediately becomes cool and objective.

"When I first looked at the score I confess I was not bowled over. It was only when I heard the full orchestra that I became converted. The vocal line is totally integrated with the orchestra and only when you listen to what the instruments are saying does everything fall into place."

"You suggest that Marguerite in *The Damnation of Faust* might have helped me prepare Charlotte. There are certainly similarities in the breadth of phrasing, but Marguerite is scarcely defined as character and that is not true of Charlotte. In the middle of rehearsals John Copley [the

producer of *Werther*] said that I was singing with too much authority. I brooded on this and decided he was right.

"The challenge comes in playing a young and totally inexperienced girl. There are certain tricks of the trade you can use, but this is the first time for instance, that I've sung a teenager preparing to go to her first party. I think the key to Charlotte is her simplicity: she is a sheltered person and a very moral one, everything is black and white for her."

Has Dame Janet gone back to Goethe? "No, deliberately not. *Werther* was decided some

High play at Monte

Michael Ratchiffe

It was an enormous relief, after a week of old news and man's inhumanity to man in choicely presented more or less as it occurred, to spend the second week of the recent Monte Carlo International Television Festival watching plays.

Suddenly events appeared on the screen in a certain order because that was the order in which a producer or director had decided that they would look best. If they were right, we got a good play; if not, not; but at least we knew whom to blame.

If that sounds obvious, try watching the unhappy citizens of Sevres shouting at each other for a whole hour, or real Polish lady mountaineers fighting their own and their men's machismo to the top of the Himalayas for International Women's Year. Besides, the standard of dramatic work was far higher than that shown as documentary and news. Eight of the 28 plays were outstanding.

Before coming to those I should say that six, at least, I never saw so as exact. Apart from *The Hemmingway Play*, to which I referred last week, they include *Richie* (USA), *Marisa della Magliana* (Italy) and *L'affaire du Château de Bitremont* (Belgium).

Richie sounds a dim echo of the family "problem-drama" of the mid-50s, and such is the crassness of American production values and the price of sponsored items that it makes even the most mediocre American and Eileen Brennan look bad. That the genre itself is not dead, nor yet immune to intelligent scripts and committed performance, was shown in *The Gold Watch* from Community Television of Southern California.

Marisa is a piece of feminist verité which honours the spirit of De Sica but rejects all forms of human communication save the unspoken, gut-shredding monologue. *L'affaire du Château de Bitremont* is a melodramatically ponderous melodrama made in Charleroi and must have had them nodding into their suppers all over the Bormage. If there was such a thing as Television Pudding, this would be the Belgian variety. It was also sampled in Polish and Hungarian flavours and, heaven knows, we package

and are used with professional skill, as the sprightly phrasing and the subtly graded dynamics of these string players, in sonatas by Marini and Buonamente, showed. This ensemble, of five players, balanced sweetly with the band comprising pairs of cornets and sackbuts.

That was in music by Giovanni Gabrieli. The wind group also played a canon by Giuseppe Giuliani, showing an uncommon capacity, entirely analogous with that of the string players, to mould their music with natural, unforced variety in articulation without ever going as far as anything that could be called legato or spiccato. Two oboes for theobro by Piccini were sensitively done by Nigel North.

If, in all this, anything was lacking, it was a touch of passion; everything was slightly

Academy of Ancient Music
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Stanley Sadie
For the title of Sunday's concert the Academy of Ancient Music borrowed Purcell's phrase "The most famous Italian Masters", and applied it to the generations before and after the one Purcell had in mind: first Monteverdi and his contemporaries, later in the evening Vivaldi. The interval, as they say, represented the passage of time.

It is enlightening to see, or rather hear, how many of the questions that exercise the amateur of Baroque music fade into meaninglessness when the proper instruments are used, and every day was slightly

cool and decorous. Music could soothe savage breasts, and presumably make soothed ones savage, too, even in the early seventeenth century. The Monteverdi and Caccini monodies sung by James Bowman, especially, seemed unemotional. But Mr Bowman, it transpired, was handicapped by laryngitis; and in those circumstances his lapses of pitch were readily forgivable, while his virtuosity and staying power in Vivaldi's *Nisi Dominus* were all the more remarkable. The music itself proved remarkable, too, particularly the "Cum dederit" with its austere hollow textures, its creeping chromatics and enough drones to fill a beehive. It might be unimportant to point out that a countertenor is perhaps an unlikely voice to encounter in music for an Italian girl's orphanage.

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All the virtues, and an economic miracle, too

Hongkong
The day before I left London I had lunch with Mr Ken Gill, the communist member of the engineers' union executive, and he lamented the de-industrialization of Britain. "We will soon be reduced to making plastic ducks," he concluded gloomily.

Well, Hongkong has produced millions of plastic ducks, but in contrast to Britain they were the beginning of a process of industrialization which long ago passed what Mr Watt Rostow defined as the point of economic take-off.

The textile industry has moved upmarket, leaving the cheaper products to relatively undeveloped countries such as South Korea, and former wig-makers switched to electronics when the bottom fell out of their market. Much more significant, ground is now being cleared for a machine tool industry in which the Chinese government is involved.

Whatever the Chinese is for a *Wirtschaftswunder*, this is an economic miracle in any language. The former colonial authority rather stuffy entrepreneur is now the seventeenth largest trading country in the world. The growth rate has averaged 8.4 per cent since 1971, despite the 1974-75 recession which is already a distant memory, and inflation is low by European standards. Hongkong workers are among the highest paid in Asia, second only to Japan.

Confidence among the Chinese expatriate communities is unbounded. What makes Hongkong tick, or rather race ahead like a well-tuned racing car? Certainly not the climate, which is miserably moist of the year. It is a tiny colony with only 404 square miles of territory. Much of it is hilly or mountainous, and there are few resources apart from the people, free enterprise, free trade and low taxes. The secret is obviously to be found within this combination.

The 4,400,000 Hongkongers are the greatest resource. The Chinese majority were described by one expatriate as the brightest and most capable people in the world. They certainly have all the Victorian virtues, including industry, cleanliness and love of family. They are resilient, and willing to try their hand at anything. Hongkong gives them the opportunity.

Profits tax, the only company tax, is 17 per cent. Income tax is a flat 15 per cent, and under the new budget proposals a married man with two children pays no tax on his first £4,000 a year.

No wonder they work. Even Leyland workers might try it if they could take home all or most of their earnings. British managers might arrive at the offices a little earlier if they were offered such incentives.

The Chinese have no class system of course, and as far as I could see do not suffer from the sin of envy. Even so the British gross domestic product would surely increase if we learned from our allegedly colonial subjects. Certainly the colonial officials have learned. Many work like—no, not blacks, but like Chinese.

Most visiting Labour MPs prefer to investigate the darker side of Hongkong life, and it can be dark. There is a great deal of corruption. Some wages are low, although skilled workers now earn more than £4 a day free of tax, and the six-day working week is standard. The East End of London is not the only place where child labour can be found. Thousands still live in shanty

towns. The colonial administration was initially slow to do anything, but the refugee problem must have seemed insoluble.

The population in 1945 was about 600,000, and in the first year after the Chinese revolution more than 750,000 refugees descended upon the colony. The subsequent flow until recently would have overwhelmed some larger countries. As late as 1973, an estimated 80,000 legal and illegal immigrants arrived, the equivalent of 2 per cent of the population. In Britain that would have been the equivalent of one million. I wonder how we could have coped.

In fact, this desperate situation was an added incentive to work. The refugees were forced to accept low wages, which the nascent industries required if they were to get started. It was a classical nineteenth-century example of market forces at work, and it worked.

Now, with increasing production and almost full employment, these forces are working in other directions. Wages are rising, and working conditions have improved. The Hongkong Housing Authority has provided low-cost housing for 350,000 families, or 45 per cent of the population, in contrast to the 220,000 units provided by the GLC. The housing drive continues at full speed, and a home ownership scheme is about to be launched.

The housing projects erected 20 years ago were primitive, but the more recent developments are probably the best in Asia. The average rent is less than 15 per cent of family income. There is little vandalism, and only one per cent of the families are behind with their payments.

The new estates and towns are cheerful places, with schools, shopping centres, playgrounds, and air-conditioned restaurants as well as the traditional food stalls. The Chinese like their food as much as the French, and in the new Ol Man estate in Kowloon I ate a meal better than any I have eaten in London's West End. Tenants are responsible for interior decoration, and the flats I visited were brightly painted and well furnished. Most have built-in refrigerators and colour television, and one of them also had a telephone and a drinks cabinet filled with bottles of Chinese wine, whisky and vodka.

Education is being extended, which should help to reduce child labour, and a second university has been established. The Chinese University in the New Territories is one of Hongkong's greatest achievements. Housed on a large hillside campus, it is the only academically free Chinese university in the world. Its Institute of Chinese Studies is likely to become the world centre of Chinese learning for communists and nationalists because it recognizes no ideological divisions in the Chinese world.

The success of Hongkong has attracted Americans, who are the largest foreign investors, and the Chinese government, an indication that the ideological freedom of its Chinese University reflects the true nature of the colony. Apart from the old-established firms and banks, only Britain has failed to seize fully the opportunities and the rewards which await the hard-working and the adventurous.

If this reflects the true nature of modern Britain, we could soon be the world's largest producer of plastic ducks, but perhaps it is not too late to learn from Hongkong.

Louis Heren

Mrs Gandhi has a fight on her hands, but the signs are that she will win

New Delhi

The "bad old days" when the British were still ruling in India have never been so well spoken of as during recent weeks of campaigning in India's crucial general election ordered by Mrs Indira Gandhi after the relaxation of the 19-month long Emergency.

With a vast electorate of almost 320 millions polling, which begins on Wednesday, will for logistic reasons be spread over four days. It will start to reveal whether the Indian people award higher priority to giving Mrs Gandhi another term after eleven years as Prime Minister or to achieving "re-entry" into more democratic processes after the emergency severely curtailed western-style constitutional guarantees.

If she wins that endorsement in human terms, the vital question for Indians would be what impact the election campaign has had on the Prime Minister's cross-country tour like no one else. Praise for British rule came from the opposition interested in making the emergency the main object of attack. "At least the British" so ran the opposition chorus led by Mrs V. L. Pandit, sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, when they looked for political dissenters made known the charges against them and let India's press report their detention.

The opposition politicians keep saying "emergency" (referred to in the speeches in English and usually without the article) ushered in a period of fear more widespread in India than for half a century. But privately they have to admit no one can say how that will translate into popular votes.

There are other groundswell factors besides, several going for Mrs Gandhi and Congress. But the electoral impact of the emergency is the chief uncertainty which has underlain the whole somewhat monotonous campaign.

"Now you can express your feelings," Mr Morarji Desai, the 82-year-old former Congress boss now leading the Janata (People's) Party, the opposition front, often ends up his speeches egging on his audiences.

The vigour with which the opposition has re-emerged—its unity, as its leaders delightedly emphasize, forged while they sat in prison—and, perhaps, the size of the audiences attracted do indeed suggest the Indian people's attachment to democratic processes and belief in its system of checks on Government.

Mrs Gandhi herself probably called the election because she thought she could obtain a plebiscitary endorsement of the emergency and certain economic gains it brought initially. But as the campaign has developed things have appeared much less certain.

The sudden uncorking of the bottle from mid-January produced the so-called "Janata wave", though Congress could, and has, expected that to die down and feelings turn increasingly in favour of stability and the known government.

The departure of Mr Jagjivan Ram, the former Minister of Agriculture and leader of millions of "untouchables" (about 15 per cent of the electorate), opened up a new flank against Mrs Gandhi reaching inside Congress.

Suppose Mrs Gandhi does not do well, particularly in the



Mrs Gandhi: can she win over the workers?

"Hindu heartlands" north and east of Delhi and comes nearer the 260 end of estimates of seats being canvassed here than 290-300 (with the magic figure of a majority of 272 in the new parliament), and the opposition Janata and Mr Ram's Congress for Democracy do correspondingly well—they are asserting Mrs Gandhi will only get 200 or even less.

The scene of the vital battle for Mrs Gandhi will then shift to the election of the New Congress Parliamentary Party leader, whom the acting president would call upon to form a government. There could be

reconciliations between the two Congresses, floor-crossings, and rallying of independents.

The importance of the Ram defection inside Congress caused the Prime Minister to swiftly to drop plans to rejuvenate the congressional candidates' list with recruits from her son's Youth Congress following, forcing her to reinstate the old guard, which knows it is fighting for its seats now thanks only to Mr Ram. That may affect how they vote in a new leader.

That the campaign has been fought so much on the emergency is evidence of the sudden salary increases pro-

also of an inability by the Prime Minister to develop a convincing campaign. Debate about future measures whoever comes to power.

The argument Mrs Gandhi has hammered endlessly that economic progress can only be achieved with political security provided by Congress may nonetheless work with a majority of Indian voters. Order and security are the promise of progress are more tangible values than human rights or democracy.

But as the Calcutta Statesman neatly reminded Congress the other day, the party cannot afford to ascribe economic gains to the emergency too forcefully if it wishes to retain democratic credibility.

If the expectations prove correct that Congress, which won 352 seats out of 517 in the 1971 general election (population growth now makes it 542 seats contested), now faces an uphill fight in northern India its traditional stronghold, then it can hope the southern states may save the balance.

The chief explanation for this is the impact caused by the Government's controversial sterilization drive under the emergency. This has emerged as the single most important popular issue of the campaign for it took unrelenting executive action to the rural areas, above all in northern India.

One of the clear signs the Government is on the defensive has been the series of "explanations" and protestations that compulsory vasectomies, which so terrorized villagers, were never intended.

An equally eloquent sign has been the flood of tax concessions, particularly to farmers, sudden salary increases pro-

viously long delayed and a whole series of infrastructure programmes, such as 4,000 announced in the past 10 days. The scale, apparently unparalleled at previous elections, will make serious budget cuts.

An anecdote told me by an Indian businessman illustrates how the rural vote is difficult still to assess though crucial. During the emergency he and his wife tried to talk to villagers near a weekend house they had about 50 miles from Delhi. They indicated they would be voting for the Government as the supply of seeds, fertilizers, and subsidized food rations all depended ultimately on officials.

But when Mr Ram resigned, their mouths opened and they told of how villagers had been carved away to resist the sterilization programme for the first time.

Mr Ram's switch will split the traditional Congress vote along the "Haryana" and the sterilization programme has particularly alienated Muslims, hitting indeed only the poor.

But where in rural areas the programme did not have such a disastrous impact, the well-oiled Congress vote-gathering machine, with its system of services, rewards, and outright bribes, should function once again for an establishment victory. The complicating factor this time is that the machine is not all going in one direction; there is no "Indira wave" this time as in 1971.

But the Indian equivalent of Dr Adenauer's old "no experiments" electoral argument might still come powerfully to Mrs Gandhi's aid.

Richard Wigg

Bernard Levin

Murder? Bluntly it is not worth it

The death (which took place just before a terrible darkness descended upon the breakfast-tables of the world) of John Dickson Carr, the American writer of detective stories, brings back for me memories of my experiences in that genre, though I must make it clear at once that everything I have to say on the subject today refers to the true whodunit, in which the puzzle is all, not to the kind which are really in the adventure-story tradition. The former I used to read in enormous quantities when I was a boy, though I quickly outgrew the habit and have touched hardly a one for very many years; the latter I regard as catering for entirely different tastes, though as a matter of fact I don't read those either, except for the ones by Gavin Lyall. (Here, if I may digress for a moment, you can see at work a very lively form of literary impropriety, which much outrages certain pure spirits whose blood don't tell at I enjoy Mr Lyall's excellent thrillers, but I do not make a habit of automatically mentioning all the writers whose work I enjoy; he, however, is a friend, so I am only too happy to roll a log for him. But then, you see, the next time I publish a book I shall expect Gavin's name to appear in the Observer that it is frightfully good, and then I shall take an early opportunity of commending her latest book, and then Gavin in his next novel will have his hero reading the Sunday Times and saying what a marvellous theatre critic the paper has, and thus the good work will go on and we shall all three prosper. And as far as I can see there is absolutely nothing that anybody can do about it.)

John Dickson Carr (he also wrote under the name of Carter Dickson)

was one of the most ingenious of crime-writers, specializing in the murder committed in a locked room or other apparently impossible circumstances: indeed, he was as much a writer of howdunits as of whodunits. But I remember getting his books fairly early on, his detective, a Chesterton figure called Dr Gideon Fell, whose favourite oath was "Archons of Athens!". Also high on the list for me was Margery Allingham, who had a detective called Mr Campion, though she affected an elliptical style which at times made it practically impossible to find out what was actually going on (a technique taken to such lengths by Mr Len Deighton that the last book of his I read remained completely unrecognizable even after I had finished it, including the bit where he explained who had been doing what to whom, and why); still the Allingham puzzles did at any rate puzzle.

I am happy to say that the critical perception of even the infant Levin was sufficiently keen to discern that the detective stories of Dorothy Sayers were bludge even by the exceptionally low standard of the form; has anybody else, in any kind of novel, ever created a hero who was at once so unconvincing, ridiculous and nasty as Lord Peter Wimsey? The same critical perception began to work very early in the case of Agatha Christie, for although there is no doubt that she was the undisputed champion at keeping the readers guessing to the end, her prose is of such unredeemed badness that I found her books quite unreadable.

After I gave up, in my teens, taking detective stories seriously, I found that for some time thereafter they continued to serve one purpose; when I was ill, at any rate with some debilitating affliction like influenza,

I could manage nothing more taxing than a crime-novel, and used to send out for an armful of Penguin green-jackets. But their ability to hold even an enfeebled attention soon weakened, and anyway I am never ill any more.

The simple truth is that all detective stories are rubbish, including the good ones. The last word on the subject was said more than 30 years ago, in a famous pair of essays by Edmund Wilson; the first was called "Why do people read detective stories?", and the second, in which he reviewed the correspondence the article had provoked, "Who cares who killed Roger Ackroyd?" Wilson dissected the subject mercilessly but revealingly; he analyzed the writing, the characterization and the plots, in a wide range of practitioners, and found not one of the books worth the time of an intelligent adult. Nor are they, for they are really nothing more than a verbal equivalent of those bent-steele puzzles in which the two bits of tangled metal lock inextricably joined, until you twist them so, and turn them thus, and slide them after this fashion, until they come apart without further difficulty.

It is a truism that, in any work of literature, the better the book or play, the less it matters to know the plot in advance. The ultimate condemnation of the detective novel, therefore, is the fact that to know in advance who did the deed effectively precludes the possibility of deriving any pleasure from it at all. (You cannot read a detective story twice unless you can forget the denouement.) In which how barren is a literary form in which what actually happens to the characters—and in only one, limited aspect of their lives, too—is all that matters.

Many people who read real books also use detective stories, but as a pure relaxation in which the mind

and the nerves can un-knot themselves. The process is essential; but there are surely better ways of achieving the desired condition than by ingesting rubbish, even of the non-poisonous kind. I have never been able to understand, for instance, the fascination the device exerts—or has exerted, for he may now have got it out of his blood—on Kingsley Amis. He ruined what was anyway, fortunately, one of his poorest novels, *I, Lizzy* (here, because he could not resist the temptation to push a bit of puzzle and unravelment into it, and he damaged—though only very slightly—one of his very finest, *The Anti-Death League*, with the same trick.

My hope that he may now have got rid of the itch rests on the fact that he finally wrote a book that was a real detective novel, and nothing else. This was *The Riverside Villas Murder*, and it was so unappealingly bad that I wanted to get hold of him and shake him until his teeth rattled, for so demeaning his gigantic talent. Fortunately, before the opportunity arose, I read *Endings*, a novel as good and as powerful as anything he has ever written, and better than most; which is saying a good deal. (Besides, he is a Mozartian, and therefore ought not to have any faults. Do I have faults?)

One of the things to which Edmund Wilson drew attention in "Who cares who killed Roger Ackroyd?" was the curiously uneasy attitude of so many readers of detective stories in pressing their addiction upon him; their very aggressiveness seemed to be the product of a feeling that the habit was unworthy and enervating. (I have found largely the same attitude in pot-smokers, faced with my own lack of interest in sampling the weed and my ill-concealed contempt for those who laud its virtues beyond the deserts of any it could conceivably have.) So if you wish

to write to me and tell me that I am wrong about detective stories in general or about your own favourite writer of them in particular, please note that I shall dismiss your remarks as the product of a literary disease. As it happens, I know who killed Roger Ackroyd, and it wasn't the butler. And if you provoke me too far, I shall reveal the answer and thus spoil the book for you.

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The Hon Mr Justice Mars-Jones. In my column of March 2 about the "reluctant juror" I discussed both the general principles of the law of contempt and their application in this case. My comments might have been taken to mean—but were not intended to—that Mr Justice Mars-Jones denied the juror the opportunity to give evidence on his own behalf; in fact the judge did give him the opportunity to do so, but he declined, speaking only through his counsel. The judge also adjourned the case for seven days to enable the juror to think the matter over and to arrange to be legally defended. I am glad to make these two points clear.

I also made what was intended to be a light-hearted reference to the judge's comment on the cost that the juror's action might have involved, suggesting that this aspect was paramount in the judge's mind. Though this was certainly not intended to be taken seriously, I now realize that could well have been, inasmuch as the judge was more concerned with the cost to the taxpayer than with the administration of justice. Mr Justice Mars-Jones did in fact say that the cost "was not an entirely irrelevant consideration, but a minor one," and in any case I was taking this opportunity of withdrawing unreservedly the unintended, and of course entirely unjustified, imputation, which I much regret.

"It's a crying shame

that Harry and Maggie must endure this after what they've been through".

We think you may share our volunteer visitor's indignation. This old couple (78 & 70) have braved a lot: Harry fought in the 1914 war, lost an eye in a later explosion, and is crippled from being run down in a street accident. Maggie cares devotedly for him, but is herself very frail.

They long for companionship; yet have nowhere to go, and no means of getting out.

Think what joy and help it would bring if we were able to start the Day Centre their district so badly needs; and provide volunteers with a minibus for the household. And think, too, what it must be like for old people overseas going hungry every day, and slowly sinking into illness as a result.

Our volunteers say, please put help into our willing hands.

£5 can bring practical help to another lonely person. £30 can help towards a Geriatric unit.

£150 perpetuates the memory of someone dear to you, by inscribing their name on the Dedication Plaque of a Day Centre in Britain.

£100 names a hospital bed in Asia.

Your donation is desperately needed to help old people. So please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T3, FREEPOST 37, LONDON W1E 6UZ. (No stamp needed.)

* Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

The Times Diary

A special kind of language school

I hope the standard of teaching at the Shakespeare School of English in Red Lion Street, London, is better than their letter-writing. A reader has sent me a copy of a letter of reference issued by the school to one of its prospective pupils from overseas so that he may prove to the Home Office that he is a bona fide student; it contains three errors of spelling or grammar.

The letter, signed by J. W. Rook (The Registrar), certifies that Mr X, a Cypriot, has been accepted as a student. "I have today accessed his ability to read, write and speak English states Rook, adding that Mr X wants to acquire a British degree "which will enable him to a much better future". Finally, Rook would appreciate it "if you can give him every assistance in permitting (sic) him to stay here."

My reporter telephoned Rook, who would not comment other than saying that he was now the school's principal. He passed the call on to Mr Delal, who said he was the manager, and issued an invitation to visit the school. When my reporter called in, Delal said we must have been talking to his brother.

The Shakespeare is part of a group of three language schools, the others being in Rupert Street and Gerrard Street, Soho. All offer 13-week courses of three hours' tuition a day, from beginner up to Cambridge Proficiency standard, at a cost of £66 a term. The school is open all year, except during January and February. But it has no recognition from any official body.

Not that it needs it. Anyone can set up and run a language school, and inspection and recognition by the Department of Education and the British Council is voluntary. Only 66

language schools in the country are inspected and recognized, of which 20 are in London; all belong to the Association of Recognized English Language Schools.

"We do not know how many unrecognized schools there are abroad," said Mr Delal, who is recognized by schools inspectors from the DES, and inspectors from the British Council. They must have been going for two years.

But much more important for a language school is to be accepted as a bona fide educational establishment by the Home Office, whose immigration officials want proof of acceptance at a proper school before they will issue a foreigner with student visa. What the Home Office regards as "proper" is vague; they do not attempt to judge educational standards, but they try to ensure that colleges do not exist simply as a means for foreigners to acquire letters which will get them student visas.

The Shakespeare is accepted as a bona fide language school at present, but obviously this and other establishments are kept under review. "The Shakespeare is a spokesman," she inferred, declined to state positively, that there were plenty of so-called language schools which were not acceptable. One condition of getting a visa is that a prospective student must undertake at least 15 hours of formal tuition per

week: Shakespeare courses conveniently offer just that.

Being unrecognized by the Department of Education and Science does not necessarily mean that the school is of dubious worth. The Shakespeare is large, occupying two floors of a substantial building, and is the fact that to know in advance who did the deed effectively precludes the possibility of deriving any pleasure from it at all. (You cannot read a detective story twice unless you can forget the denouement.) In which how barren is a literary form in which what actually happens to the characters—and in only one, limited aspect of their lives, too—is all that matters.

Many people who read real books also use detective stories, but as a pure relaxation in which the mind

Little puff

Technology has caught up with the bagpipes. They have gone electric. Pipers, who until now have always used their own wind to power their instruments, are now using a pump. The innovation when it was introduced to them at a Scottish Pipe Band Association piping and drumming competition at Hounslow at the weekend.

"If you've not got the wind you shouldn't play," said one elderly piper with disdain. He was affronted by the idea of the piper being required only to perform the finger work on the chanter, while a compressor in the bag provided the necessary air pressure.

Younger pipers, though, were impressed by the device, invented by John Mackinnon. It produces the authentic dreadful sound of people-powered pipes, but it is not a pump. It is a device which takes air from five countries and intends to market his power-assisted pipes at the canny price of £140 the set.

"It is principally intended for the piper who cannot find the breath to play," he said. "Now he can play standing or sitting down merely by plugging in the flex."

Mackinnon, from Inverness-shire, had the idea three years ago after an operation. He was booked to broadcast, and enlisted the aid of a Scots scientist to work out a way of producing breath to fill the bag artificially. He tried 27 firms in Germany, three in Sweden, and 60 in Britain before finding a British firm who could produce a compressor small enough to meet his need.

Between 7.30 and 8.30 this morning, BBC Radio 4 reported that the fine imposed on the demonstrator who threw a placard at the Queen was £50, 100 pounds, and £70.

Hey presto!

For once, visitors to the Royal Academy are allowed to reach out and touch the exhibits. But when they do so, the exhibits are not there. The show, *Light Fantastic*, turns the Academy into a magical Hall of Mirrors in which the exhibits are optical illusions.



on which they are recorded, and which change appearance as they are viewed from different angles, as a real object would.

There is, for example, a particularly eerie skull on show. It looked so real that visitors were poking their fingers into its eye sockets, and giggling nervously when they found there was no bone. The most baffling hologram showed a magnifying glass in front of three pill bottles. As you moved from side to side, the small print of the labels was enlarged as it passed behind the magnifying glass, and normal size again. Yet when you reached for the magnifying glass there was nothing. The people organizing the show were persistently trying to explain the scientific principles of their process to the disconcerted audience. They said that

holograms would shortly revolutionize our lives. They were bound to be used for sensational theatrical effects, advertisers would be crying out to surround us with them, and it would shortly be possible to make holograms of unstable, moving subjects like human beings. Then, they said proudly, waxworks would be redundant, which must be bad news for Madame Tussaud's.

Yeah

Margaret Trudeau, whose distaste for the official part of her life as the first lady of Canada is being widely reported, gave some intimate details of her home life when she took part in a meeting of wives at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Ottawa in May, 1975. Addressing the other wives as "sisters," she explained:

"My husband and I are of different generations. We were brought up in different ways. Sometimes he says something to me and I have to say: 'Stop it. Do you know what you're just doing? You're not in a very inferior role.' So he says 'Yeah' and changes it."

Audrey Callaghan, who spoke at the same Ottawa meeting, may have been watching with interest for signs of such exchanges when she and her husband dined with the Troades at the weekend.

Bewilderingly uncharitable sentiment from the Irish magazine of St Barnabas's church at Highfield, Sheffield: "Mother's Sunday on the 20th really is a chance to say thank you to God for the rock of family life. Why not turn Grandma out this morning."

PHS

Land of argument and song

idea of Wales being one nation, moving in concert, has no basis because we are a group of regions, each different from, and indifferent to, the others. The north goes to Liverpool, the south looks to London, the north-east is a Merseyside colony, the middle looks to Birmingham, the south to Cardiff, the south-east to Bristol.

"The Welsh language is a piece of medieval baggage, and those who hang on to it are like the last remnants of a discredited religion." So said one cheer for the rugby team, but that's as far as some Wales thing that would seem to many outsiders, a realistic appraisal. But Wales can't be idly purged of its history and dynamics have created a geography of twisted roots, centuries of twisting roots, enriching, though paradoxical times infuriating, and of argument there is more a song.

The source is the tug between The Welshness and Britishness, and the conflicting business, and the business in concepts of Welshness with the minds, with the people's attitude as a complication.

people language as a compo-
nent factor. Welshness is
as difficult to define as love,
or the taste of wine, but
there can be no doubting its
existence and astonishing
durability. Wales, as an
island might so easily have
disappeared, but it has sur-
vived through the mixture of
belief and accidents.

Conquered by the English
in the thirteenth century,
joined to—and made equal
with—the English state by
the Act of Union in the six-
teenth, Wales has ex-
perienced the seventeenth and
eighteenth centuries. The Welsh lan-
guage, the fundamental dif-
ferential and root of the
national identity, dating from the
fourteenth century, should have
been supplanted, but was
protected by mountains, and
and literature, and under-

ness was shared
language and religion
of the issues facing
people were the same
England—poverty, im-
pression, but religion
frontier—but religion
language—but enabled
people to regard the
as different and to
separate action. A
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There grew a
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But, at the same time that the Welshmen were hardening their claim to a different identity, through insubordination and through political activity, conflicting forces were at work. Wales was making its full part in the great adventure of empire. Its teachers, miners, doctors and soldiers were adding to the greater glory of Britain. The Navy assumed on Welsh coal, and there was Welsh coal too, that fuelled the industrial revolution.

In the second half of the nineteenth century south Wales became industrialized. Many people emigrated.

from rural Wales, taking language and faith with them, and helping to put an unmistakable Welsh stamp on the coal valleys which were, for a long time, a mere dam of Welshness. They mingled with a tide of economic workers from England and abroad, creating a mixed community, a seed-bed of socialism and change.

This new Anglo-Welsh community, however, did not necessarily share the views and aspirations of its Welshmen. The difference was a

establish a united movement for sweeping aldermanic cosmopolitanism from Swansea would never domination of It is a scene remains an Welsh politics.

Meanwhile, the language was being eroded and the spread of education and the look and Welsh-speaker anxious to put

ference, and the children was made plain at an historic meeting in 1896 when speaking Welsh was on the Welsh home rulers tried to

home rule, as
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Welshness would not disappear.

The idea that Wales was an entity, a special case, began to be pushed more strongly. A new nationalism, rather more deeply rooted than the harder, brasher Scottish brand, began to swell. To the institutions started in the nineteenth century were added others. BBC Wales has been important in giving credibility to the idea of Wales as an entity, and the establish-

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and torment.

by Brian Evans

Recently the editors of Debreit announced that they were prepared to investigate the ancestry of anyone, poor or commoner, for a fee of £100. Now Welshmen are not notorious for accepting their money around, and especially in love or in drink. Nevertheless, I can assure that the principal inducement for Debreit's consultations for Debreit's luck amid the researches of Joneses, Davieses and Williamses: who find the pages of church registers and private obituaries here in Wales. For, right through the ages, we have been devoted co-servants of the family tree, loving each weighing in, right back to the primeval swamp.

In Vanbrugh's *Asop*, finished in 1697, Assop is a "flat, stony country in the world's side where every man born a gentleman and a genealogist." If we regard the anatomical sense, the "rock of the tance remains a fundamental fact today. Not that "men" nowadays imagine superior being, some out above the draw wood and the draw water. As for the water concerned, the very is the case. We in Wales all gentlemen and a broad class—and they disagree with me, kindly step outside

[illegible]

by Ross Davies

Wales is a late starter in the market for foreign investment and still has far to go before it catches up with comparable regions of Britain or of Western Europe.

In 1945 there were only four foreign manufacturing firms in the principality. By the end of 1964 there were 43, and since then the total has trebled. There are now about 138 overseas-owned manufacturing units which employ 53,000 people, or 10 per cent of manufacturing employment.

In this regard, the principal is a difficult author, although firms which have gone there must stay and pronounce themselves satisfied both with the financial incentives offered and the availability and willingness of workers.

The Irish can offer certain financial concessions which the Welsh, in common with other British regions, are unable to match. One of these is a tax holiday on export profits for the 15 years up to 1980.

The Welsh, unlike the Welsh and the Scots, have been working to a clearly defined regional development plan, with targets for about 200 towns and centres.

The Irish see full political representation in London, Denmark, Japan, Germany and three in the United States.

The agency is about the only Irish body to prospect for foreign investor needs to go in order to get a grant or mental, and IDA officials, unlike many British civil servants, are empowered to become very flexible in deciding where a project might be otherwise going elsewhere.

Wales has no direct representation in London or anywhere else. A British merchant office oversees the window displays of Welsh industrial advantages within a map of Wales upside down since 1958 there has been a Development Corporation for Wales for promoting principally its interests.

There is now a Wales Development Agency (with

Direct

As the largest owners and developers of industrial property throughout Wales, we can make available factories and sites to your most meticulous requirements.

We are equipped to advise on and co-ordinate all available forms of grant aid.

We have the ability to provide capital and loans for the expansion of successful industrial companies.

We have ready a complete investment and technical advisory service.

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You have only to contact our Commercial or Investment Directors who will ensure the immediate availability of our services.

Welsh Development Agency
AWDURDOD DATBLYGU CYMRU

Treforest Industrial Estate, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan CF37 5UT.
Telephone Treforest (044385) 2666 Telex 497516

No quick cure to dispel industrial gloom

by Geraint Talfan Davies

In the reception area of the Welsh Development Agency's offices at Treforest, the office was hunched over the following words: "We are willing, led by the unknown, to do the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much for so long with so little we are now qualified to do anything with nothing for next to nothing."

Less than a year since the WDA could be said truly to have begun its work the joke is, less than fair, not to say inaccurate in several respects, but it does express some of the disillusionment in Wales with the efforts made to reduce the disadvantage from which it so obviously suffers.

One of the paradoxical products of such gloom is

often a search for panacea. And the latest of these is the WDA, whose coming was much trumpeted as an instrument of economic salvation.

Mr Ian Gray, the WDA's chief executive, has to live down such unrealistic expectations. On the face of it the WDA has all the powers needed to do the job. It can provide loans to companies, can take equity holdings, can enter joint ventures and even set up businesses of its own. It will provide an advisory service for industry. It has taken over the work of the Welsh industrial estates corporation and is thus the biggest industrial landlord in Wales. It is also responsible for approving and financing land reclamation schemes and other environmental improvements.

It is an impressive range of powers, but its effectiveness, like that of any other agency, will be largely determined by how much money is available. The Act establishing the WDA gave it a budget of £100m spread over five years, but gave to the

Secretary of State the right to go back to Parliament for a further £50m if needed.

There has been a certain scepticism in Wales about the adequacy even of £150m to cope with the scale of Welsh problems. Mr Gray concedes the point. "It is already clear that in order to achieve the tasks laid upon us we will have to spend very much more rapidly than was foreseen at the time."

How much more rapidly will be seen in the next few weeks when the agency's first policy document is published; it will give a clearer estimate of the money needed, rather than the Act's stab in the dark.

It has yet to be seen whether the Welsh Office, or more importantly, the Treasury, will accept the idea of substantially increased spending. The economic case for giving the WDA what it wants would seem strong. Unemployment in Wales stands at 81,000, about 8 per cent. But that masks pockets of male unemployment that rise to well over 20 per cent.

Welsh activity rates, and especially female activity rates, are the lowest in the kingdom, and most other indices of economic need and financial provision see Wales very badly placed.

Regional policy is going through a critical stage of transition. More than a year ago a report from the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge, for the Welsh Office, concluded that between 1960 and 1972 80,000 jobs had been created by the Government's regional policies.

To have brought Welsh unemployment and activity rates to British averages would have needed about 250,000 jobs.

Yet even that pessimistic assessment was regarded as possibly optimistic by two lecturers at the Polytechnic of Wales, who late last year produced a report which estimated that only 30,000 jobs had been created in industrial South Wales, and half of those had been for women.

Between 1971 and 1974 13,500 jobs were brought to

South Wales but in the 1971-75 period no fewer than 45,268 redundancies were declared in the same area. The situation has been aggravated by the effect of public spending cuts which fall particularly heavily in Wales because 40 per cent of the workforce is employed in the public sector as against the British figure of 29 per cent.

In spite of this limited effectiveness, or perhaps because of it, the package of regional incentives has been weakened in one crucial respect by the abolition of the Regional Employment Premium.

The Chancellor claimed that REP was no longer doing the job for which it was intended. That may be true but just as many will argue that it is doing a rather different but no less important one.

REP, which will be abolished on April 1, is providing Welsh industry with much needed cash, about £30m annually. It is being withdrawn at the very time that the Treasury has delayed payment of regional development grants for three

months in order to save money. In addition, the growing problems of areas that were hitherto regarded as prosperous has meant growing pressure on the Government to relax or drop its IDC controls.

The Welsh Office's industry division, through which the WDA is responsible to the Secretary of State, for Wales, has been pleased by a recent upturn of interest from firms outside Wales which are considering expansion. The WDA has itself been charged with the job of industrial promotion outside Wales.

It will be operating through the Development Corporation for Wales, which will now receive the bulk of its funds direct from the agency rather than from the Welsh Office.

But Mr Gray says that "we do not expect that inward investment will even remotely adequately provide for the needs of the principality". It is for this reason that the WDA will be concentrat-

ing instead on the expansion of existing industry. A study done for the Welsh Council three years ago showed that though Wales had a substantial number of large organisations (most of them in the public sector) and a profusion of small firms, there was a shortage of the medium-size firms that should be the backbone of any healthy economy. It was pointed out at the time that if most small firms were able to double their size that would provide more jobs than regional policy has done over 15 years.

To this end the WDA will be seeking to eliminate some key weaknesses. First, far too many companies in Wales are operating on too small a capital base. Thus, badly geared financially, they are in greater difficulties when markets slump. This shortage of equity capital also inhibits expansion.

Mr Gray also claims that many firms in Wales are badly in need of technical innovation to stay up to or ahead of the market, and the sound way to do this is to

expand the capital base. This is where the WDA's ability to take a share of the equity in a company will be of value together with the advice that the agency's investment division will be able to offer.

The WDA has received more than 200 applications for assistance but more than half of these have not measured up to the agency's investment criteria. The WDA has always made it plain that it is not in the rescue business, but is looking for viable projects that will provide growth with profitability. The most that is conceded is that the agency will act like an "adventurous merchant bank".

But it is doubtful whether even these first investments by the agency, however adventurous, will take the sting out of criticism of the forthcoming policy document. Economic planning at the Welsh Office has been determinedly nebulous and people have started to look to the WDA for an economic plan for Wales. But this is precisely what

Mr Gray has ruled out. He does not believe that the agency has the resources to not have control or much influence as yet over investment nor over the basic services. It is almost certain that the policy document, as limited in scope and less specific than they hoped.

It was argued in the Welsh Office that the scale of the problems facing the WDA were such that a separate body would be needed to tackle the equally intractable but smaller scale problems of rural Wales. Here the vision of small communities by emigration continues.

The argument for a separate body is not accepted by all, many believing that it would have been better simply to create a rural division of the WDA. In fact the Development Board for Rural Wales will act as the agent of the WDA in many respects. The author is assistant editor, Western Mail.

More and more growing companies are taking to our hills.

Special Development Area Status

A major part of Gwynedd has Special Development Area Status, which means firms moving to, or expanding in Gwynedd can take advantage of large Government grants, low interest loans and generous tax concessions.

Low operating costs

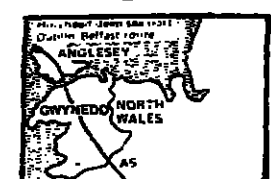
Operating costs in Gwynedd are significantly lower than in most parts of the U.K. Generally, rent and rates for commercial and industrial properties are about one-fifth of those in the South of England.

Trouble-free labour

Gwynedd has a reserve of skilled and semi-skilled labour and a record of industrial relations to be proud of.

Education & Housing

Moving a company to a growth area isn't just moving buildings and machines - it's moving people. Gwynedd has a fully developed comprehensive school system, technical colleges and University. There are adequate housing facilities to meet the full range of salary scales.



No favouritism in Gwynedd

All companies thinking of coming to Gwynedd whatever their size and wherever they are based can expect the same help and assistance from our Economic Development Office.

Advance Development

Within the next 2 years an allocation from Central Government has granted Gwynedd 14 diverse, multi-purpose advance factory units.

Join the successful companies already operating in Gwynedd

Camryn Plastics, Ffordd, Hi-Speed Plastics, Bernard Wardle

and Anglesey Aluminium are now well established in the area. These companies are already opening the door to component and much needed service industries.

Strategically positioned

Gwynedd is near the large industrial complexes of Merseyside and the Midlands. It provides an ideal situation for original equipment manufacturers and component and service industries. There is a deep water container port at Holyhead with warehouse facilities and road and rail connections. Valley Airport has operational facilities.

How to get expansion moving

Contact: E. Lloyd Evans, Economic Development Office, Gwynedd County Council, County Offices, Caernarfon LL55 1SH. Tel: Caernarfon (0286) 4121

Room to live, room to work.

by Diana Patt

The land of castles and song and Owain Glyndwr is quite different from its old enemy and near neighbour, England. There may be, no passport control, no customs posts along a clearly defined frontier, but once across the border into Wales the colours of the far mountains change to a hard slate blue and there is a hint of heather and whinberries on the close-cropped moorland.

The best introduction to the border county of Clwyd (formerly Flintshire and Denbighshire) is by the winding road from Oswestry to Llangollen over the Horse-shoe Pass, giving breath-taking views over fold upon fold of the Clwydian hills and starting the ruins of the castle of Dinas Bran and of the Cistercian abbey of Valle Crucis. The sheep, more aggressive than their English counterparts, nudge into the car for scraps of

cheese and cake. Hill farmers complain that the animals have learnt to cross the cattle grids (put there to contain them) by rolling and publishing to the area.

To enter north-east Wales by train is to see and understand the contrast between the rural uplands of great beauty and the scarred industrial coast. Mining and other metal working are ancient occupations in this area, dating at least from Roman times. From the Victorian era old chimneys, old buildings, old clutter remain.

The railway track borders the Dee estuary and takes the visitor through the mix of rundown and surviving industry; through Shotton, where the threat of partial closure of the BS steel works threatens the loss of 6,000 jobs (600 of them held by men living in near by Flint); through Flint itself where the main Courtaulds textile plant is scheduled to close in April putting a third of the town's working people out of a job. The possible closure of another Courtaulds mill in the town could bring unemployment to 42 per cent.

Clwyd and neighbouring Merseyside are linked by their urgent need for work. A deputation from the two counties went to the House of Commons on February 10 to see Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and to present a document which underlines the desperate need for priority government aid because of its dependence on metal manufacture and textiles, both of which are losing jobs at an alarmingly high rate. Clwyd's economic structure is vulnerable.

Since the time when lead, zinc and silver were mined in Flint and Halkyn, declining industry is nothing new in north-east Wales. The cut-back in coalmining has caused a loss of some 3,000 jobs in the past 10 years and Wrexham's only remaining colliery, Bersham, is completely dependent on steel making at Shotton.

Clwyd will need at least

35,000 new jobs by 1981 and the county council has to attract new industry such as metal goods, paper, printing and publishing to the area.

So, from the scars of industry to the scars of tourism a little way along the coast. The holiday strip from Prestatyn, through Rhyl to Abergel, has scars of another sort. Those retired ranks of immobile mobile homes, fixed on hardstandings, hemmed between the railway line and the sea. Do they bring money to the area, or do they put off the visitor to hotel and boarding house who wants to enjoy the view? Do the occupants of these static holiday homes spend money in the resorts, or do they bring their cars, the boots already packed with provisions?

However, born in Prestatyn, I have to admit to prejudice in its favour. Not even the rash of building in the fields and gardens of my childhood can spoil for me the town's position between the gentle hills and sea. I do regret the loss of the sandhills where we rode our ponies, scattering unwary lovers, now replaced by a concrete embankment and sea wall, and I regret the advent of the fortress-like Pontin's holiday camp with the high link fence and "guard dog" patrolling notices. On a rainy day the tourists behind the wire have the funny look of prisoners in an exercise yard.

Colwyn Bay and resorts farther along the coast seem to have disciplined the caravan parks and their owners so that their presence is more discreet and, in the county of Gwynedd (the old Caernarfonshire and Merioneth) council policy is, quite definitely, to keep them out of sight.

This is one of many contrasts between the two counties, but possibly the greatest is the Welshness of Gwynedd. Clwyd's position on the border with England means that it has a large influx of English commuters

as well as a large community of English-speaking Welshmen. Gwynedd, on the other hand, stretching from Holyhead on Anglesey to the Dovey estuary, in Merioneth, with 300 miles of coastline and 800 miles of national park, is a region where Welsh is the language of every day and where nationalist feeling runs high.

Quite as much steam is being engendered locally over the county council's battle for a Welsh-speaking secondary school in Bangor as there is about the larger issue of devolution. English parents argue that separate schools for Welsh and English divide the community and that there is an element of selection which goes against the comprehensive principle.

Mr E. Evans, Gwynedd's director of education, calls this a "complete misunderstanding of bilingualism". He says: "In Bangor, where 73 per cent of children are English-speaking as against 27 per cent Welsh-speaking, you have to take artificial steps to preserve bilingualism. Opposition to the scheme comes first from opponents of the continued existence of a Welsh-speaking community in Bangor and second, from those who cannot distinguish between the culturally and politically motivated."

Gwynedd, like Clwyd, needs economic expansion. The local authority aims to create additional employment, not only in manufacturing, but in agriculture, tourism and the service sector. It is concentrating its efforts on a number of selected growth centres, each within 10 miles of the working population, so as to make the maximum use of resources and give adequate back-up service.

Dr E. Evans, the economic development officer, says: "We can offer employers factories off the shelf. Because of a major Government effort to provide industrial premises

Gwynedd has factories immediately available ranging in size from 1,500 to 50,000 sq ft."

There are plans to attract electronics firms to the Snowdonia Electronics Park, thus linking industry with academics in the School of Electronic Engineering Science at the University of North Wales. There are afforestation areas where sawmills and small-scale timber-related industries would be welcome. There is a need for finished aluminium products as well as the ingots already produced.

Farming is the most important industry producing 17.9 per cent of the county's direct income, but sons of farmers are having to find alternative work, which leads to depopulation of the rural areas. In the hill areas farmers are offering farm-houses to accommodate tourists to supplement their incomes.

A feasibility study is being conducted by the water port at Holyhead to see whether an suitable vessel should be set up, should an exploration of traditionally cattle are sold pany want to go ahead.

"on the hoof", but with the growing awareness of chilling and refrigeration there could be scope for meat processing and packaging.

Tourism, although seasonal, is the second industry (15.3 per cent). Manufacturing comes third (11 per cent). The chief difficulty of "selling" the county to manufacturers, according to Dr Lloyd Evans, is their impression of its remoteness. It has good rail links, but lacks good roads. A dual carriageway is needed along the coast, but this has been repeatedly blocked by conservationists who fear particularly the environmental harm to Conwy. If the road is built, its construction could dovetail with the completion of a £200m hydroelectric scheme at Dinorwic, which employs 2,000 local men and is scheduled for completion in 1982.

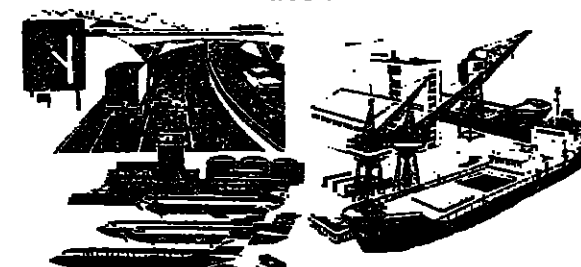
There is a real possibility of finding Celtic Sea oil. So far there have been no big finds, but the deep being conducted by the water port at Holyhead is a council to see whether an suitable vessel should be set up, should an exploration of traditionally cattle are sold pany want to go ahead.

South Glamorgan

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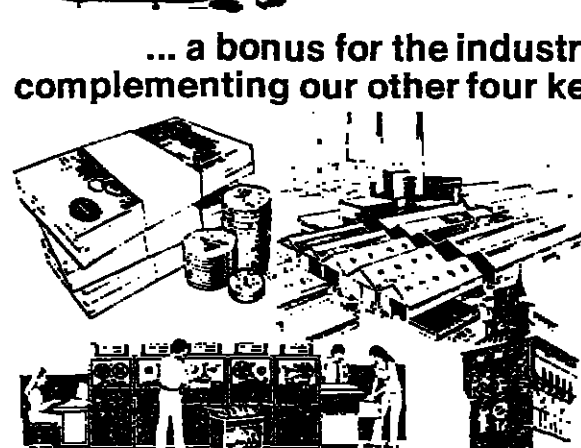
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For further information contact: Rhodri Morgan, Industrial Development Officer, County of South Glamorgan, County Headquarters, Newport Road, Cardiff. Tel: (0222) 499022 Ext. 3463.



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Beaumaris castle, Gwynedd, although never completed, was the last great castle built by Edward I in North Wales.

Slow progress towards modern steel

by Patrick Hannan

Ten years ago, when the Government was in the process of nationalizing the steel industry and Welsh collieries were being closed by the handful, the future industrial pattern of Wales seemed quite clear. Mining would continue in the steady decline that had begun in the late 1950s. Steelmaking would be transformed into an industry lean and efficient enough to compete with Japan, the United States and Europe.

Both these developments would have released Wales from some of its dependence on two massive labour-intensive industries since, when the economic crisis had been solved, modern manufacturing industry would provide the jobs needed by the men who would inevitably have to move on.

Ten years later, it all looks rather different. The decline of the mining industry has been halted, even reversed. Progress towards a modernized steel industry has been painfully slow. Economic reality combined with social and political pressures has shattered many of the illusions of 1967.

It was the energy crisis of the winter of 1973-74 that gave the coal industry its second chance. Between 1958 and 1970, more than 90 collieries in Wales had been closed; more than 60,000 men had left the industry, reducing the workforce to almost 40,000. South Wales, especially, with its difficult geology and the poor productivity that stemmed at least in part from that, seemed a candidate only for continuing decline.

But the oil price increases that gave the miners the extra muscle needed in their confrontation with the Government, also provided the impetus that changed the industry's direction in Wales.

Now the emphasis is on development instead of closure. Capital is being invested instead of being abandoned underground in East Moors would disused workings. For the first time in many years, proposed that the capacity South Wales is getting a of Port Talbot, already a big new mine—the film de-velopment at Bettws, near Ammanford, where a new

drift is being driven into the valuable anthracite seam.

There is irony, too, in the fact that reserves abandoned when mines were closed may yet be brought to the surface. Treforgan colliery, near Neath, was reaching the end of its working life when senior management in the coalfield, against their better judgment, were persuaded to carry out a survey of other seams that could be reached from Treforgan. The miners' views were vindicated and work has now begun on a development that will exploit reserves once worked from other collieries.

In the past three years the coal board has invested more than £40m in the South Wales coalfield, but there is one cloud over these bright prospects—the failure to make any substantial improvement in productivity. Output has fallen by 10 per cent during the past year and although the blame for that lies to some extent with bad luck in mining conditions, deep mining is a long way from making a profit. Some of the new developments and reorganization schemes will help towards a solution, but Sir Derek Barra, the coal board chairman, believes incentives are needed as well. By that he means there is a need for some kind of productivity deal.

Productivity is equally a problem in the steel industry, but the British Steel Corporation has always seen a clear answer to such difficulties: bigger works run by fewer people.

It was on this basis that the corporation's development strategy was launched four years ago, a strategy that did not have room for a substantial section of the steel industry in Wales since its main theme was the making of bulk steel in large plants sited on the coast.

The strategy meant that steelmaking should end at Shotton, Ebbw Vale and East Moors, Cardiff. Half the 15,000 jobs at Shotton, half the 9,000 jobs at Ebbw Vale and all 4,500 jobs at East Moors would be lost. In addition, it was proposed that the capacity of Port Talbot, already a big new mine—the film de-velopment at Bettws, near Ammanford, where a new

nificant increase in the workforce.

Any number of action committees, protest marches, reviews and inquiries mean that, four years later, many of the main decisions remain to be taken all over again. The questions of whether steel-making should end at Shotton and whether the Port Talbot development—which will now cost at least £500m—should go ahead, remain to be answered.

At one time the steel corporation argued that the two decisions were inextricably linked—continued steelmaking at Shotton, where they did not want it, meant no expansion at Port Talbot, where they did want it.

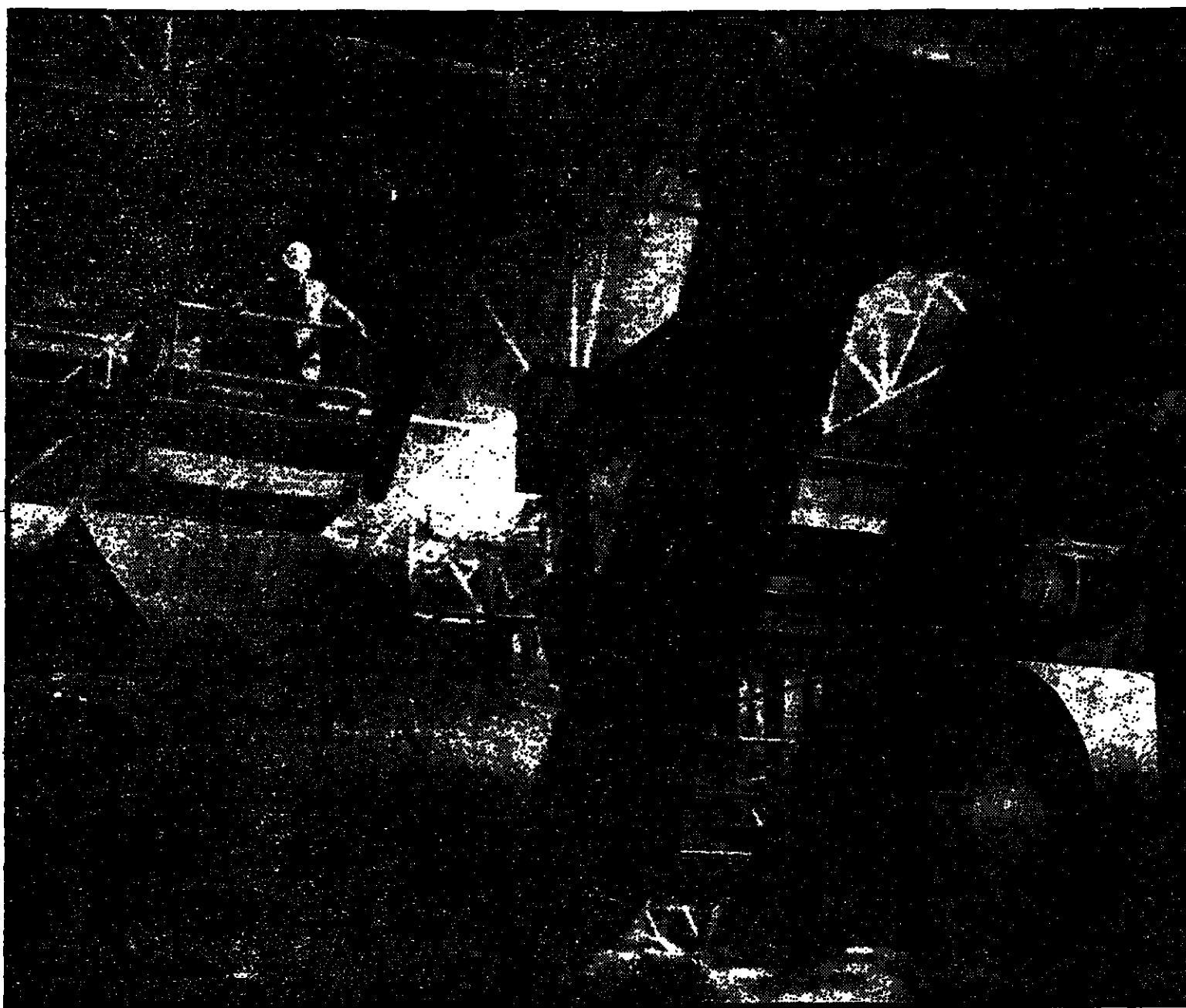
Now, when the final decision is made during the next few weeks, it is quite possible that both works will get new capital investment.

BSC has not been able to make purely commercial decisions about its strategy. That is something to cheer those who argue that one of the benefits of nationalization is—and ought to be—that industries can be forced to take account of wider considerations, in particular the effect of proposed closures on the communities involved. With unemployment in Wales well over 7 per cent, the pressure on the corporation to change its mind and, more particularly, on the Government to persuade it to do so, is very substantial.

So in the four years since the grand design was first produced, only Ebbw Vale of the big Welsh works has seen results. Two thousand jobs have already been lost there; 2,000 more will go. This rundown during recession has meant that all the job creation efforts have been unable to prevent unemployment in the area rising to almost 10 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Welsh steel industry labours under the effects of that recession. A reasonable level of output has been maintained recently by a policy of stockpiling, helped by government finance. Even when the recession lifts and after nearly 10 years of nationalization, steel will still be a long way from the modern, efficient industry promised.

The author is BBC industrial correspondent for Wales.



Stelvetite production at Shotton works, which involves coating sheet steel with plastic or paint.

Investment: long way to go

continued from page 1

the budget of its Scottish counterpart) which will invest in Welsh projects.

Neither is directly represented outside Wales and neither has the guidance of a national economic plan, unless it is Wales—The Way Ahead, a nine-year-old Welsh Office document which appears to have little acceptance outside the Welsh Office.

The future for devolution is uncertain. Even if a Welsh assembly is created without further delay, it is unlikely that it could produce a national plan before 1980. At the same time, there are national and regional agencies through-

out the world competing for too little investment and too few jobs.

The most comprehensive review* of the issues at stake in winning overseas investment emphasizes the need for Welsh national policy and says that Europe rather than North America is the most probable source of new investment. British and North American firms often have their overseas subsidiaries in distant countries, while European firms usually prefer to set up

* Overseas Investment in Wales by Professor Glyn Davies and Dr Ian Thomas (Christopher Davies, Swansea, £3.75).

foreign subsidiaries in other parts of Europe.

The review also ended a number of misconceptions. The Welsh, with their long history of support for the Labour Party and trade unionism, do not make troublesome workers, according to the foreign firms interviewed.

Foreign firms, on the other hand, were found to be less likely to close up in hard times in Wales than other firms. Overseas investment was in a wide range of industry and was interested neither solely nor even mainly in exploiting cheap female labour. Lastly, researchers did not find foreign firms secretive. The study concluded that

Wales needs 120,000 more jobs in the next 10 years.

Of these, 30,000 would have to come from overseas investment, or twice the present number achieved over a period three times as long.

American manufacturers in Wales include Alcoa, Amoco, Borg Warner, Cam Gears, Control Data, Dow Chemical, Dow Corning, Exxon, Ford, Fram Europe, Gulf Oil Refining, Hoover, ICI, Creed, Johnson and Johnson, Monsanto, 3M, Parke-Davis, Revlon International and Texaco. German interests include Gabelin and Co., Hassia Verpackung, Schnachbau Thyssen, Industriewerke Schaeffler, Scheinplug und Fied-

ler, J. S. Staedler, Suko-Sim, Alfred Teves, Wells, Herbert Zippel, Heinrich Luehr and Felic Boettcher.

Others include Berlei and Hills Industries (Australia), Alcan Booth Sheet and York Trailer (Canada), Sony, Takiron and Matsushita Electric (Japan), Alfa-Laval (Sweden) and L'Oréal (France).

Wales is one of Britain's areas for expansion, with wide selection of incentives for manufacturing and service industry financial incentives. Welsh projects may also qualify for European Community funds, notably from the European Investment Bank and the European Coal and Steel Community.

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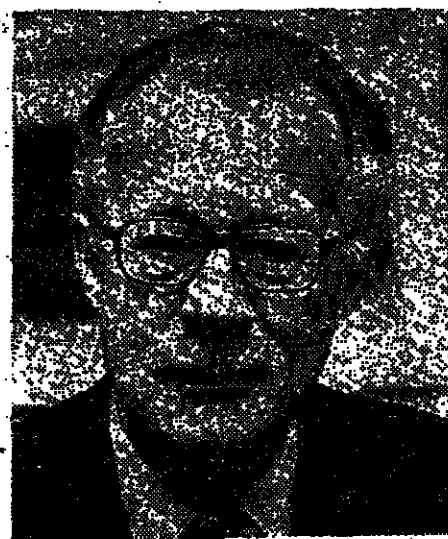
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In Wales, The Times, Financial Times and The Guardian reach a combined total of 10,000 AB adults...

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Which is not surprising really—for the Western Mail is the National Newspaper of Wales

For more details of the Western Mail in Wales, contact Simon Kay on 01-387 2800 or Eddie Pinder on 0222-33022

by Christopher Stuart

One of the most significant changes in the pattern of Welsh life during the 1970s has been the rapid growth of the subsidised arts.

The prosperity of the culture that surrounds the Welsh language has been accumulating over a longer period and alongside clearly defined political trends, but art in its non-nationalistic, alephh guise has established its strong presence in the principality recently, and with astonishing speed. Ten years ago the Welsh Arts Council's annual expenditure was £430,000. For the coming financial year, the figure will be more than £1,000,000, a progressive increase that has kept well ahead of the inflation rate.

Now Wales seems to have

reached a watershed in its cultural development for two reasons: first, the expansion of subsidy, in real terms, seems to have stopped and there is no prospect of any material improvement for at least three years; second, the pattern of development having been laid down with such speed, there is now a growing desire to assess the extent to which that pattern is the one that serves Wales's interests the best.

The indications are that the months ahead will involve a blend of consolidation and change and the emergence of what some will see as a more settled and rational allocation of resources. The process is also certain to carry in its wake a good deal of in-fighting and disagreement over priorities.

Six years ago Wales had two theatres offering reg-

ular professional productions, one in Swansea and one in Cardiff. Today there are new, medium-scale, advanced theatres in Aberystwyth, Cardiff, Bangor, Harlech and Mold, along with a string of arts centres. Bricks and mortar, in other words, are at the heart of the transformation, and the circuit of new theatres will be complete when those planned for Milford Haven and Bwlch Wells, both under construction, open their doors to their respective publics.

With such an unprecedented growth in performance venues the main problem facing those appointed to manage them, few of whom have extensive experience of theatre management, has been finding the necessary breadth of quality product to keep their charges active and attractive. Only Theatr Clwyd, in

Mold, has its own repertory company, but although its work so far is reckoned to have been generally disappointing these are early days, and the WAC seems to be manoeuvring itself into a position from which it can foster the growth of similar companies in many more of Wales's new theatres.

This poses a threat to the existing companies, most of them based in Cardiff, which service the circuit with an almost continuous programme of touring. They include the Welsh Drama Company (linked administratively to the Welsh National Opera), the Moving Being mixed-media company, the Welsh-language Cymni Theatr Cymru, based in Bangor, and the bilingual Theatr yr Ymlyn.

The growing cost of touring, together with the obstacles it places in the way

of companies developing strong links with their audiences, are both factors that carry weight in the formulation of present WAC thinking. Rationalization may involve some of the companies adopting less specifically national titles, and settling down to act as resident companies in each of the theatres rather than touring among them, but it may also mean that some companies are phased out altogether. This is a threat which is already creating a good deal of anxious intrigue, particularly in the case of the Welsh Drama Company whose relations with the host theatres and the WAC have been less than cordial in recent months.

A further major development of recent years has been the professionalization of the opera company. Five years ago its chorus was amateur and its orchestra part time. Now both are full time and professional. Its subsidy over the same period has risen from £250,000 in 1971-72 to an expected £1,400,000 in 1977-78, and although it is still the poorest of the principal British opera companies its status has been greatly enhanced and its work enthusiastically received.

The WNO's next priority is an opera house of its own, but so far Cardiff's city fathers, whose support is necessary if any scheme is to get off the ground, have displayed minimal enthusiasm. When the Welsh National Opera opens its own house in two years' time, WNO will be left as the only full-time, professional company in the world without a performing home of its own.

With the theatre-building programme nearing completion, the individual artist working in Wales is another

who can expect to benefit from the expected renaissance of cash resources. This will affect writers, working in English and Welsh, as well as film-makers, sculptors and craftsmen. "We have attempted to raise the craft of writing to a professional and not just a hack activity," Mr Robert Harris, the WAC's deputy director, told me.

His remark has a wider significance, for although the amateur artist continues to flourish in Wales, the professional, who in the past tended merely to pass through, now lives and works in the principality on an ever-increasing scale. That perhaps is the most fundamental change of all, and the gains that have proceeded from it must be protected.

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Trevor Fishlock reports on two aspects of national identity: language which has spawned a revolution and devotion to rugby football

Smart to be bilingual in a subtitle society

My driving licence is printed in Welsh and English. So are my medical card, television licence and telephone gas and electricity bills.

Many more of the administration's dealings with me can be conducted by way of bilingual forms, and there is a slowly increasing number of bilingual signs to help to guide me around the roads. I can register a birth, or insist on a summons, in Welsh.

Even the programme at Cardiff Arms Park gives the players' positions in Welsh as well as English, and now Woolworth is putting up bilingual signs in some of its stores. Habitat has done so already, and some banks

issue bilingual cheque books. In the past few years Wales has become a subtitle society.

True, some of it is tokenism, a conforming to fashion (suddenly, it is smart to be bilingual); but much of it springs from a genuine shift in attitudes and a wish to give Welsh its place.

Putting Welsh on the buses, the headed notepaper, the signs and forms does not, by itself, save the language but it certainly helps to support it. It provides the dignity, recognition and measure of equality that its proponents say it needs.

The case has been put that a man is entitled to live his life through his own language, and the justice of that claim has been agreed widely; and, where not agreed, not strongly resisted.

It has been a revolution, though not always quiet. To the reforms worked for by politicians, academics, lawyers and others, there has been added the noisy and urgent pressure of the Welsh Language Society which, although unpopular, often stirring anger, brought people to consider the decline of Welsh and its future.

Today, more than half a million of the 2,800,000 Welsh. At the beginning of this century there were a million. In recent years,

through death and migration, the Welsh-speaking population has been halved by 200 a week. At this rate it will be under a quarter of a million at the end of the century.

Although the question of the survival of Welsh touches all the people of Wales, because their rates help to support it and it is an element in their political arena, it must be said that its survival is the interest of a minority. It cannot be claimed that every Welsh speaker is concerned: some are as indifferent as the bulk of the English-speaking population.

Out of concern for a quiet life, or a sense of fair play, the majority are not openly hostile. There are some who avoid Welsh as if it were a cultural leprosy, but most tolerate the surface manifestations of bilingualism, and are happy enough for their children to be taught Welsh. The language hardly touches them. It is a factor in a handful of jobs,

but for the large majority Welsh is no consideration in employment.

It is not easy to say whether, 100 years from now, Welsh will be the living medium of business, domestic, social and cultural intercourse that it is now. Figures published recently showed that less than 11 per cent of primary school children are fluent in Welsh.

Still, much hope is pinned to the nursery schools movement which is the base for primary and comprehensive schools where Welsh is the medium of instruction in many subjects. This movement, makes Welsh-speakers of children from non-Welsh, or half-Welsh homes, where parents wish to reconnect their children to a heritage or to give them the advantages (sometimes economic advantages) of having two languages. It is a middle class movement essentially, and quite strong in Anglo-Wales. It is a pity it is not broader, but it is no more

elicit than the education process itself.

The pushing for a fourth television channel, which would increase the amount of Welsh-language broadcasting, goes on. Certainly there are not enough children's programmes in Welsh, and English-language television is relentlessly wearing away at it. But there is also concern that an exclusive fourth channel would shut Welsh away, to its detriment; and the same concern is expressed for the philosophy of some language supporters who want their culture fortress in exclusively Welsh rural reservations.

Government help can only go so far: all the Government aid and recognition it needed has not saved Irish from fading on the fringes. "Blood of Welsh-speakers" more emphatic in using facilities that are already provided, especially as some of them have been fought for. It is a hard fact, and

unfair, but if you want to use Welsh fully you have to work that little bit harder.

In terms of the range of expression and of public regard, Welsh lives in a top-pier climate than it did a decade ago. But the erosion goes on, and it remains difficult for the caring Welsh-speaker to communicate his passion to his fellow Welshmen.

On both sides of an issue that is always potentially troublesome, there is a tendency to conclude that one of two incidents are typical of the whole. And prejudice is often close to the surface. Recently a Welsh-speaking friend put a coin into a one-armed bandit and was rewarded with a torrent of silver. A woman standing beside him, waiting her turn to gamble, was furious. "Blood of Welsh-speakers," she called to his retreating back. It is well known in Wales that the one-armed bandits are fixed to favour Welsh-speakers.

More important than mere politics

In South Wales rugby football is written not by the column but by the acre. The appetite for news of rugby is voracious, and in a country where a newspaper is certain enough of its readers' tastes to run articles investigating a disputed try scored in 1905, you might be forgiven for wondering how thin is the line between reasonable passion and certifiable obsession.

Recently, after watching a match at Cardiff Arms Park I met a friend and we went for a drink in a bar where victory-glazed supporters were discussing the triumph of the afternoon with the quiet air of Aristotle's Huns debating a raid.

We stood at the bar and fell to talking of politics, and noticed that a man

close by was growing increasingly agitated and beginning to shoot us impatient glances. At last he could bear it no longer. "For heaven's sake," he said, "you come out of a match and start talking politics. Can't you talk about the rugby?"

Rugby football is exalted in Wales. Through it Welshmen express their tribal loyalty and some of their identity and surface nationalism. And because they are very good at it, they can strut the larger stages of nations.

The game is a blend of personal and community expression, of poetry and violence, a complicated game on which the Welshmen of the southern valleys—for it is the game of the coalfield—have placed their unique stamp.

It is fashionable, and to a considerable extent justified, to be lyrical about Welsh rugby, to revel in its excitement, to ponder and explain its significance in Welsh life. But at the same time, it would be wrong to ignore the silly and sour side of it, to wonder if it is becoming so serious that it is in danger of being

in some ways, the importance of rugby is over-inflated. The game is taken more seriously today, and there is a greater emphasis on coaching. There are more demands on players, who sometimes suffer domestic tensions because of them.

The words of players and officials, even when exuberant, are treated as gems; and players, when they become famous, are the centre of adulation embarrassing in its intensity. Barry John remembers crying as women cursed to him.

Selectors are accorded the rank of VIP, and the administrators are part of the self-important and defensive rugby union fraternity which still, neurotically, imposes life banishment on men who stray beyond the amateur pale.

Rugby clubhouses are often temples to a misshapen idea of manliness, made uncomfortable for women by noise, slopping beer, bawdy songs and bravado. In these antiseptic places—as, sadly, on the terraces—tensions are heightened.

In the past few years some of the pure sporting pleasure has vanished from rugby: the game is no longer the thing, as once it was. The appetite is much more strongly for victory at all costs, enjoyment dependent on victory.

The once-renowned humour and fairness of Welsh crowds has been infiltrated by strands of viciousness. Rugby in Wales has not yet been tainted by crowd hoodlums, as has soccer; but some close observers of the game wonder how long it will be before the bottle-chucking starts.



Barry John, curtailed to by women.

It is part of the new obsession, of increased expectations and narrow-mindedness are reflected in the new tie of violence on the field. Rugby, to understate, is a hard game and players expect to give each other hell.

One admires brave men and physical courage, but how is it that the handful of dirty players are regarded with reverence by some of the machismo-minded on the terraces and in the clubhouses? How is it that their violence is not universally deplored? Why do journalists quarrel so readily with referees' decisions in a way they would not have dreamt of five or 10 years ago? Their unseemly disputes degrade the game.

Of course, there are counterbalancing factors. A more sophisticated approach to rugby techniques, including professional coaching, has created a more attractive spectacle; and there are plenty who say that the more professional approach, the intensifying of the will to win, can coexist happily with the fun of sport for sport's sake.

It is a good thing that during the past few years there has developed a sub-culture of rugby fun and parody in Wales, which holds up a mirror to enable those who regard their rugby as a religion to laugh at themselves.

Max Boyce, the singer, and Glyn Jones, cartoonist of the South Wales Echo, are the principal fun-pokers, expressing much of the comedy found in following rugby, and also the Welsh pride of the south.

One hopes that few others will always satirize the excesses of Welsh rugby and its followers, and dare to suggest that it is not warfare, but a game.

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STUDENT REVOLT

It is Italy that did not have enough troubles already, she has been suddenly faced in the past few weeks with a rapidly escalating student revolt, which last Saturday night provoked scenes of violence in Rome and some other cities such as had not been seen since the war. The political parties which struggle to rule the country, already floundering in an absurdly overstaffed and inefficient bureaucracy, and to contain the rumbling discontent of the working class, have wheeled warily about to face this new threat from an unexpected quarter.

Superficially what has happened bears some resemblance to the French student revolt of May 1968—particularly in the relationship between it and the Communist party. The violent attack on Signor Luciano Lama, the Communist trade union leader, at the University of Rome last month, recalls the expulsion of the French Communist Party's education spokesman from the Nanterre campus in April 1968. In Italy, even more than in France nine years ago, contempt and hatred for a Communist party which has settled down to play conventional politics within the bourgeois system seem to be among the main sources of student revolutionary anger.

The Italian Communist Party today has similar, but perhaps even stronger, reasons to fear an outbreak of violence to those which the French Communist Party had in 1968. The 1968 crisis came a year after a general election in which the left-wing parties, standing in alliance for the first time in the Fifth Republic, had almost deprived General de Gaulle's

supporters of their majority in parliament. The Communist leaders felt confident that their strategy of unity was paying off. But the outbreak of student violence and the general strike which followed so frightened moderate voters that the prospects for a left-wing government were set back by at least five years. The Italian Communists today are much closer to power than the French Communists were then. The present Italian government depends on its tacit support for its survival, and consults them regularly on all kinds of issues. Anti-Communist opinion both in Italy and outside is gradually coming to accept that there is a respectable party whose help is needed to resolve Italy's multiple crisis. And even the most naive voter could scarcely hold them responsible for an outbreak of violence so obviously directed against them.

The danger for the Italian Communists is not that they may be thought to be responsible for student violence, but rather that they can be seen to be incapable of preventing it; and this is liable to diminish their attraction for large numbers of moderate or conservative voters who are coming to regard them as a necessary bulwark of law and order. A resemblance to May, 1968, can be seen also in the rapid degeneration of what the majority of participants see as a non-violent protest movement into acts of vandalism and violence, apparently organized by relatively small groups of demonstrators with a teddy-boy mentality. How far these small groups are inspired by right or left-wing notions of a *politique du pire* it is hard to guess. On the Paris barricades some former partisans of Algeria Française

could be seen joining in the fray; and Italy is unfortunately well endowed with violent extremists of both persuasions. That there are people, in Italy and in Spain, who are trying to put into practice a "strategy of tension" to defeat democracy, can no longer seriously be questioned.

It can still be hoped that this strategy will be self-defeating, since it is clear that the majority of student demonstrators are no more favourable to violence than any other group in society. But violence feeds on despair, and there is no obvious remedy for the despair of Italy's students, most of whom have neither qualification nor inclination for academic study but are simply postponing the evil day when they become officially unemployed. Their anger against Christian Democrats and Communists alike is inspired directly by projects which both parties have put forward for reforming university education—both of which would almost inevitably have the effect of cutting down the size of the student body. This, too, was one element in the build-up to the French student revolt of 1968. But that took place in a context of economic growth, when workers were inspired to follow the students' lead with the instinctive knowledge that there were economic benefits to be claimed. In Italy today those who are still in work will hardly envy or admire the students, but rather be afraid of sharing their fate. The slogan of May, 1968, was "imagination in power". Imagination is certainly needed by anyone in power in Italy today. But the students will have to do more than paint themselves like redskins if they are to provide it.

AFTER SIR ROBERT MARK

Sir Robert Mark became Metropolitan Police Commissioner when the force was going through an extremely difficult period. Revelations of the extensive corruption within it had greatly undermined public confidence in the police, and the antipathy between the uniformed and detective branches had been destructive of both efficiency and morale. A measure of his success during his five years' tenure of office is the fact that the Metropolitan Police have largely regained the confidence and understanding of most of the community (the black minority being one unfortunate exception). It is also more aware of its role in society.

Sir Robert's policy was twofold. Internally, he took strong action against corruption among his men, which led to more than 400 leaving the force in less than credible circumstances. He was acutely aware of the dangers

and temptations that came from the CID's exclusive position, keeping itself almost as a force within a force, and sought to correct this by integrating the detectives within the general command structure of the Metropolitan Police—though the extent to which this changed the substance as well as the appearance may be questioned.

Externally he made the role of the police the subject of much more open debate and interest. That was an excellent example, though occasionally in his pronouncements on the jury system, high rates of acquittal, and dishonest lawyers, and in his implacable opposition to the recent legislation on complaints against the police, he pitched his case too strongly. At other times, both operationally and from the point of view of public impact, he has been brilliant, the Spaghetti House and 'Balcombe' Street sieges being two such occasions.

Mr David McNea, who has now taken over as Commissioner, has a different task before him than Sir Robert had five years ago. Although at the moment preoccupied by issues affecting their pay and conditions, the Metropolitan Police command more confidence. Mr McNea is, as his first official statement showed yesterday, fully aware of the need to keep the public and the police in close mutual understanding. He has, perhaps, by temperament, not as skilful a personality as that of Sir Robert, and is less likely to be as much in the public eye as his predecessor. Such differences of style do not matter if the objects to be achieved are the right ones, and are pursued with due enthusiasm. Mr McNea has made it clear that he intends broadly to follow the same main policies as did Sir Robert. That is a sensible approach. There is no case for a counter-reformation.

NIMROD—THE WAY TO SAVE JOBS

If Britain is to maintain her defence stance unimpaired she must be able to spot the new generation of fast, long-range Soviet bombers when they are still over the horizon and at least 200 miles away. It is agreed in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that mounting radars on board high-flying aircraft is the way to do this, but which aircraft, and which radar system to choose for this country is an important decision which has remained for too long in the pending tray of the Secretary of State for Defence.

The choice for Mr Mulley is twofold. On the one hand there is the American AWACS system, using American radars in an American aircraft, the E3A version of the well-known Boeing 707 airliner. On the other, there are British—Marconi-Elliott radars in the British Hawker Siddeley Nimrod, an aircraft based on the Comet airliner which is in service with the Royal Air Force as a submarine hunter.

Britain has already committed herself to the AWACS, but the purchase of this system, which would cost up to £56m for each unit, was dependent upon a satisfactory sharing out of the cost among the Nato partners so that this country would not pay the bill for twenty-five aircraft, a total of about £1,500m. The finance ministers of the alliance have not so far managed to make any real progress towards a cost-sharing solution, so giving the proponents of the Nimrod early warning aircraft, which has been funded by the British Government as a back-up system, the opportunity to demand that it be promoted to the major position, rather than kept in reserve.

On grounds of cost there is little to choose between the two. Eleven Nimrods would be required to fulfil the British Nato role. These aircraft are already in existence as part of the anti-submarine fleet. They would need modifying and fitting out

with the new radar at a cost for each aircraft of £18m so that the total bill for Britain would be in the same range as that for buying American. Both aircraft types and their electronic equipment would be as effective as each other for the job they have to do, while their radars, although made in different countries, could be linked together to form part of a standardized Nato shield.

The one remaining important criterion is the size of employment within the British aerospace industry which each project would create. The British aerospace industry says that Nimrod would bring 7,000 jobs with it, many of them highly skilled, while the American aircraft would give work for only 500 less-skilled workers. Boeing's figures are respectively 4,500 and 1,000. Nimrod should therefore be the British choice, and Mr Mulley should tell our Nato partners that such a decision will be for the good of the alliance, rather than to its detriment.

Sterling values

Sir, I wrote, and you published, a letter last December in which I described the higher exchange rate being given in the Paris Gare du Nord for Scottish compared with English currency.

It may please some of your readers that a week or so ago at the same desk I was offered 8.2 francs for the English and 8.1 francs for the Scottish pound note. As to whether this reversal can be explained by devaluation's having become an almost dead duck or by the French profiting from the presence of a host of Scottish rugby supporters, I cannot hazard a guess. Yours faithfully, ROY MANLEY, 7 Holland Park Court, Holland Park Gardens, W14.

Historic churches

From Mr Marcus Binney and Mr Peter Burnham
Sir, Clifford Longley's interesting report (February 21) of the forthcoming state aid for historic churches could give the impression that grants are intended only for Anglican parish churches. With some 6,500 pre-Reformation churches (out of a total of 17,500) the Church of England certainly has both the oldest and the largest number of churches, but many of the buildings are of other denominations and are eligible for a proportionate share of the funds available. The Methodist Church, for example, has some 8,000 churches, the Roman Catholics have 2,588 parish churches, the

United Reformed Church (formed from the Congregationalists and the Presbyterian Church of England) have some 2,200 churches, 1,749 churches in England belong to the Baptist Union, the Quakers have between 300-400 Meeting Houses still in use and the Unitarians have some 200 churches. To these must be added synagogues (though many fine ones perished in the war), the remarkable buildings of the Catholic Apostolic Church and even a mosque or two.

We are at present engaged in detailed research on the subject for an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum to be held in July and a report to be published at the same time by the British Tourist Authority. All the evidence shows that these buildings are still seriously undervalued: less than 10, for example have the top Grade I listing, while many notable nineteenth-century Nonconformist chapels remain unlisted. This lack of appreciation is due partly to problems of access (Nonconformist churches are almost always closed), but even more to a longstanding habit of dismissing all Nonconformist buildings as second rate, a habit which has unfortunately, if understandably, often rubbed off on their congregations. The Unitarians and the Quakers have the highest proportion of fine architecture, but Baptist, Congregationalist, and Methodist churches still have many notable buildings. These include remarkably beautiful and sometimes little touched early Meeting Houses, the larger "preaching houses" which came with Wesley and numerous Victorian buildings of great townscape value.

These grants are also to be available in Scotland—where the competition in church building which followed the Great Disruption of 1843 produced lively architectural rivalry in almost every town and village—and in Wales which has the highest proportion of places of worship per head of any part of the United Kingdom. The need for grants in Scotland and Wales, and to the other denominations in England, is all the more important as outside the Church of England there is no equivalent of the Redundant Churches Fund to take churches no longer required for worship into guardianship.

Yours faithfully, MARCUS BINNEY, PETER BURMAN, 21 Cambridge Street, SW1.

Price of coffee

From Miss Elizabeth Creak
Sir, I realise that there has been a frost in Brazil, and there is not enough coffee to go round. I realise that the producer has his costs, and therefore must get more per lb for the coffee he is able to produce.

What I do not understand is why the grocer should join the bandwagon. Surely his rent, rates and labour, while they have increased, bear no relation to the loss of coffee in Brazil. Should not his mark up be expressed as a straight sum and not a percentage. Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH CREAK, Clyde Higgs Farm, Barton Rock, Stratford-upon-Avon.

National Trust and Mentmore

From the Director-General of the National Trust
Sir, The National Trust has often been referred to in the correspondence about this great house. I should like to explain that until it all became public, the National Trust knew nothing about Mentmore nor about the threat to it. Ten days ago, through informal contact with the Executors of the late Lord Rosebery, three members of its staff were shown round and their report was considered by the Executive Committee on March 11.

The Committee had no hesitation in saying that this outstanding nineteenth century country house, with its rich and wonderful contents so appropriate in their setting, would be accepted by the National Trust for permanent preservation if it was offered with sufficient protective land and if adequate funds for its repair and endowment could be found. It would take about four months for the National Trust to work out the very substantial sum of money it would be likely to need, and it earnestly hopes that some way of extending the period for decision can be agreed.

A longer time might also enable other solutions to be explored and the National Trust would be happy to play some part in a holding operation if this would be helpful.

Yours faithfully, D. BOLES, Director-General, The National Trust, 42, Queen Anne's Gate, SW1, March 14.

From Mr Denis Mahon

Sir, Very much more than Lord Eccles's mere ipse dixit is required to authenticate, in the minds of those concerned for our cultural heritage, his preposterous claim (March 14) that the National Land Fund "is only a book entry". By this phrase he appears to contend that the Fund has no independent existence distinct from the general funds at the disposal of the Exchequer, and that whenever it is used for public purposes it is used out of the public purse.

The fact is that the fund, financed from the sale of surplus war stores, was set up in 1946 in the form of a trust as a war memorial. Its accounts have by statute to be presented annually to the House of Commons, which orders them to be published. The accounts for the most recent year (March 31, 1976, was published last month (House of Commons Paper No 157)).

One Appendix in this document records all transactions in securities during the year (the clear implication being that some holdings were sold on the open market), while another specifies in detail

the securities held on March 31, 1976 with both their cost and their then market value. It may be noted also that during the year receipts (in great part interest on investments) exceeded expenditure by over £1.3m, and that more than five-sixths of the fund's expenditure (over £492,000) was paid to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to compensate them for tax on items acquired in accordance with the terms of the trust. Seriously to claim that this constitutes a charge on the public purse would appear more than a trifle eccentric.

It may be added that if the fund is no more than a "book entry", it would have been highly improper for the Treasury to have warmly welcomed (as it did, see Dr Iain Clark's letter in your issue of February 12) the idea of gifts or bequests to the fund, even stating that cheques should be made payable to HM Treasury National Land Fund.

If Lord Eccles's basic premise is questionable, the rest of his argument hardly follows. Yet the consideration of "priorities" is relevant in a much deeper and broader sense than Lord Eccles would have us believe. During the House of Lords debate on March 9, chapter and verse was repeatedly given for the fact that, in a post-industrial Britain, our cultural heritage bids fair to become one of the country's greatest assets, by reason of the foreign currency which it attracts from tourism. Is it not high time that the Government and bureaucracy (and Lord Eccles) woke up, ceased to repeat the old cliché of a vanished age, and considered the value of the good sense to invest on behalf of the whole nation—albeit on a relatively minuscule scale—in what now seems to be turning into the country's leading growth enterprise?

Yours faithfully, DENIS MAHON, 33 Cadogan Square, SW1, March 14.

From Mr Brian Sewell

Sir, There is a simple answer to the Mentmore problem. The government should accept the house without delay at its present bargain price of £3,000,000 and should then sell, with the greatest possible care in selection, enough of the less prestigious loot to recover the purchase price, or a vanishingly small part of it. Provided that not all Mrs Norman's 1,800 undiscovered Keatings are in the attic, that traditional source of treasure should save the house and its contents for us at no cost at all. Yours faithfully, BRIAN SEWELL, 12 Eldon Road, Victoria Road, W8, March 11.

Cost of rail travel

From Mr R. B. Reid
Sir, If the Director of the British Road Federation can write a letter, as he did (Letter, March 2), in which his road traffic figures are wrong, the reader may perhaps be forgiven for examining more closely his other statistics and the arguments he builds on them.

During the period 1970-74, the number of people travelling into London by rail did indeed drop by 45,000 a day. But in the same period the number of people coming in by car went up (by over 12,000), not down, as claimed by Mr Phillipson. The trend was reversed in 1974-75 as the cost of motoring rose sharply. Presumably, however, Mr Phillipson would not agree that this trend was due to the rise in costs if we are to believe his contention that the loss of rail traffic has little or no connexion with rising fares.

There is clear evidence that a 5 per cent increase in fares from rail to car would result in the level of peak hour car travel by almost 20 per cent with considerable resulting increase in road congestion.

Massacre in Rhodesia

From the Reverend C. Desmond Ford, SJ

Sir, From Mr Boddie's letter—March 1—I can only assume that I was the member of the Mount Street community to whom he spoke when he visited us a few days after the tragedy.

During those days I was called upon to help with the large number of visitors seeking photographs of the victims. On each occasion I referred them to the Press Association.

At no time was I asked to make a statement or to give an interview. Any opinions attributed to me would therefore at best be a personal viewpoint made on the assumption that the conversation was private.

But two things are certain: I would have rejected any suggestion made, on the very day when the victims were being buried, that the tragedy of Muzambi should be used as it was in the advertisement that subsequently appeared; again, no caller introduced himself to me as representing the Club of Ten. If he had done so I would have been alert to the implications of his visit. Yours faithfully, C. DESMOND FORD, SJ, 114 Mount Street, W1.

Raids on sauna clubs

From Mr W. H. Caswell

Sir, I write to draw your attention to what I feel to be a most unsatisfactory position that can arise out of police raids on suspected homosexual saunas.

It does seem that public policy and the effects of such policy in this area can be damaging not only to those present when raids are made but also to the reputation of the police. One is dealing with a category of events which, precisely because of the privacy which surrounds them, require of the police methods which I am sure that they would never otherwise employ; the events and the publicity surrounding them, because of public prurience, have consequences which are out of all proportion to their potential legal implications.

Events in the saunas often appear to have been between entirely

consenting adults in what one assumes to be the privacy of cubicles on club premises. There can be no question of offence to the public or to the police by members only. As a result, so as to obtain evidence, the police must parade as patrons making young officers go into the sauna dressed only in towels. A parallel would be of young women constables being asked to observe heterosexual groups in a similarly underdressed state. Given the alleged offences, the line must be very blurred between what is the enticement of an agent provocateur and observation.

The effective penalties are cruel and savage. In a typical case a man may be married with a responsible job. The court penalty will be nugatory compared to the results of even an unsuccessful prosecution. He can face months of anxiety, newspaper publicity resulting in the possible break up of his marriage and loss of his job and he can expect to pay legal fees including the almost certain Crown Court appearance of between £500 and £1,000.

With respect, I would submit that though there may be no other way, the methods used to obtain evidence combined with the effective entirely disproportionate penalties can only bring the law into disrepute. Yours faithfully, W. H. CASWELL, Youth London Probation and After-Care Service, 175 Seymour Place, W1.

Public Lending Right

From the Deputy Secretary-General of the Arts Council of Great Britain

Sir, Charles Osborne, Literature Director of the Arts Council, in a letter which you published on March 11, invited your readers to let him know if they would be prepared to pay a subscription for the right to borrow books from public libraries.

In the absence of the Secretary-General, I should like to make it clear that this personal initiative of Mr Osborne's in no way represents a change of policy by the Arts Council on the question of the Public Lending Right. The Council has always supported the cause for legislation in Parliament to bring about an effective Public Lending Right for authors, and continues to do so.

Yours faithfully, ANGUS STIRLING, Deputy Secretary-General, Arts Council of Great Britain, 105 Piccadilly, W1, March 14.

Graduate jobs

From Mr B. J. Holloway

Sir, The report which appeared in your pages on February 22 completely misrepresented what was actually said in the annual report of the University of Manchester Appointments Board. While the Board drew attention to the problems posed by the sudden reduction in job opportunities for graduates in the public sector, it was not this which was described as "economically absurd and socially unjust".

If I may quote the relevant paragraph, the Board stated that "It is economically absurd to pay smaller salaries to those who are manufacturing or providing the goods or services which alone allow us, as a manufacturing and trading nation, to import the food needed to keep us alive let alone the raw materials without which we cannot survive at our present standard of living. It is socially unjust twice over: once because those employed in manufacturing or service industries have, as their only guarantee of future work, their ability to continue to provide their products at a time of a quality and at a price which the customer is prepared to pay. Risks have to be taken and competition fought and beaten. Broadly speaking, a public sector employee enjoys higher job security, and the price of his mistakes, his salary increases, or his failures can if necessary be passed on to the consumer in the

Declining morale in Britain

From Professor Elliott Jaques

Sir, There are two major forces destroying the morale of the working men and women of Britain. They stem not from any change in the British character, but from the total inadequacy of our social institutions: first, the widespread lack of institutions for real employee participation; second, the utterly unmodest nature of our institutions for fixing the overall pattern of pay differentials. The two issues are closely interwoven.

Our failure to provide the opportunity for full scale participation by all employees in agreeing the policies which affect them means that 23 million men and women, possessing the franchise as citizens, are dispossessed in the process of work—whether in industry, commerce, or in the health and various social services. Deep seated feelings of bitterness, helplessness, of being imposed upon and coerced, of alienation and sheer desperation are continuously kept on the boil.

At the same time a profound change in the pattern of payment differentials has come about, largely by default. When the social contract was adopted there was little awareness of the destruction of established differentials that would ensue. To change differentials without all round agreement is to court disaster. People's feelings about differentials are far more violent and potentially disruptive than most governmental, managerial and trade union leaders seem able to recognize, or at least to admit publicly.

The marriage of these two forces has produced, at a terrifying rate, nihilistic feelings of lack of concern for country, for family, and for self.

Unfortunately, the Bullock Committee, who might have helped, have only served to make matters worse, by throwing in a great mass of confusion between the proper functions of directors and the proper functions of employee representatives. At the same time, demands for a return to collective bargaining, or to the dishonest

arrangement euphemistically called "productivity bargaining", threaten to reintroduce fragmented negotiations and perpetual inflationary leapfrogging.

If these seemingly intractable problems are to be eradicated, a number of things must be done. First, serious policy-making Works Councils, made up of elected representatives of all sections meeting with top management, must be set up on every site or complex of sites employing more than 350 people. That will not only begin to tackle the problem of alienation arising over non-participation, but will also bring all groups into face to face discussion of their pay relationships.

At the same time, the Prime Minister and the Government must demonstrate that they have a sensitive awareness of the differential issue. They must reassure the nation that, as soon as the economic situation allows, the problems of the dislocation of differentials will not only be tackled, but tackled as a whole and not in bits and pieces. The total cooperation of the trade unions and other bodies who negotiate pay levels for their members must be gained. The pattern of differentials must be resolved by agreement among them, without opportunity for any to opt out and to seek unjust gains for themselves relative to others. If this accord is not prepared for and achieved, we shall find ourselves increasingly subject as a nation to the ugly prospect of economic fratricide, as work group fights work group, union fights union, and professional, managerial, technical, clerical and manual groups all fight one another.

Now institutions to allow people to participate in the work place and to be assured of just reward and creativity and for responsibility carried are Britain's urgent social priorities. Yours faithfully, ELLIOTT JACQUES, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex, March 11.

Training for social work

From Sir Dermen Christopherson, FRs

Sir, Some months ago you published a letter which I wrote to you as Chairman of this Council expressing concern for the vulnerable position of training for the personal social services, given current competition for resources in higher education. Since then, further cuts in public expenditure have exacerbated the situation, and 1977 is likely to be a crucial year.

At present the intake to social work courses in universities and colleges is some 4,000 a year. In the past, a majority of these students have been seconded from employment to train for the Certificate of Qualification in Social Work (CQSW) awarded by this Council. We have recently learned that about 300 fewer students are likely to be seconded by local authorities in England and Wales for entry to courses this autumn compared with 1976. At the same time, the availability of grants as an alternative to secondment is being restricted. There is to be a limit on grants available through the DHSS and Home Office, and the number of discretionary awards given by local education authorities is in many cases being cut.

From the point of view of standards in the social services, the paucity of students, while for individual CQSW courses it may be disastrous, the resources for social

work training have no special safeguard; and if courses are not filled this autumn, as now seems possible, hard pressed universities and polytechnics may well be obliged to consider whether resources of staff and money at present invested in these courses should be allocated elsewhere.

Even at the present rate, we shall still not have achieved a 50 per cent trained service over all the various settings of social work by the end of the next decade.

If training for social work loses impetus now, the repercussions will continue to be felt for years to come. Most important, standards of service to clients will be adversely affected, and many people, including those already in post, who want to qualify as social workers will be unable to obtain the training they need. There is no shortage of those wishing to train, but the machinery for sustaining training is at risk.

If Government and employers want qualified staff, means will have to be found to safeguard these training resources. In the meantime, hard won achievements may be lost if immediate action is not taken to ensure that there is no reduction in the number of students entering training in 1977. Yours faithfully, DERMAN G. CHRISTOPHERSON, Chairman, Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work, Derbyshire House, St Chad's Street, WC1.

John Evelyn's table

From Mr Ralph Edwards

Sir, It is not to be believed, or if it is, it will be in a high degree shameful that the table given by John Evelyn to John Evelyn, which is to be sold on the 17th of this month at Christie's, will be allowed to leave this country.

The table is one of two known to have been carved by Gibbons and the only secular one (the other is in the Lady Chapel at St Paul's). Moreover, it is completely and evocatively authenticated, being recorded by Evelyn in his MS *Inventory of Wotton House* as "a table of Walnut tree curiously carved and varnished standing on a frame of iron-tree, incomparably carved with 4 Angels, flowers and fruitages by that famous Artist Gibbons, and presented me in acknowledgment of my first recommending him to K. Charles the second, before which he was scarce known".

This piece of furniture is, to adopt a term used by Lady Birk in the House of Lords debate about Mentmore, one of the intrinsic segments of English history", albeit a small one. It should surely be regarded, even in these hard times, as indispensable both on account of its excellence as craftsmanship and its truly remarkable personal associations. Yours faithfully, RALPH EDWARDS, Suffolk House, Chiswick Mall, W4, March 11.

Rockall

From Mr A. S. Chambers

Sir, I am pleased now to be able to inform your readers that although the author of the article that appeared in *Chambers Journal* in 1892 may have had good imagination he also had on our records a name—it was Mr A. T. Hay, and he came from Stockton-on-Tees. For his contribution he received three and a half guineas—so perhaps to him at least it was worth while.

Yours faithfully, TONY CHAMBERS, W & R Chambers Ltd, 11 Thistle Street, Edinburgh.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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LAING

LOCAL
OR NATIONAL
CONSTRUCTION SERVICE

Coming to
terms with
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imports, page 24

Leyland accepts prospect of drastic investment cutback

By Our Industrial Staff

With trading losses ranging between £10m and £15m a week, the state-owned British Leyland vehicle manufacturing group now accepts that dramatic changes to its "1977 Business Plan"—which embraces the huge Mini investment project—are inevitable unless the Government Enterprise Board to provide short-term assistance from April 1.

For the time being, Leyland's big suppliers and bankers are standing by the strike-hit company. But they expect prompt action by Whitehall to protect their interests.

On Friday, the board of British Leyland is due to release its preliminary financial results for the 15 months ending December 31, 1976. It is deeply worried that the £75m profit for that period will be misinterpreted by the workforce, as it has come from non-car activities and exchange rate gains.

The return on capital is, in fact, negligible and what matters now is the current trading position, with no contribution being made by Leyland Cars, contrary to the 1977 business plan and its benchmarks on financing (this year for every £1m due to be supplied by the NEB, the Leyland board has to find £1.5m in matching resources).

The NEB has already concluded that it is unable to make further funds available for what is known in official documents as the Cars Plan, and the Government has supported this decision. For its part the Leyland board has no hope of avoiding its duty to act as a normal company when faced with a crisis of capital resources.

There are some 11th-hour

guarantees to buy more time.

The dimensioning of the crisis will be clarified tomorrow when a Commons Select Committee of MPs begins questioning Leyland's top management and the NEB as well as senior civil servants.

Yesterday, Leyland's senior executives were ready to admit that the company had failed to meet most of its criteria for improved industrial relations laid down in the Ryder Committee report on the future of Leyland and its corporate plan is now well behind schedule.

More Leyland car workers were laid off yesterday, making a total of 41,500 idle. At the end of the six-week strike by 3,000 toolroom operatives, Leyland's plants with 15,300 and 12,500 lay-offs respectively. Ten of Leyland's 18-strong range of cars are not being produced.

The strike is now causing serious problems for component suppliers. Wilnot Breeden, Birmingham manufacturer of door fittings and bumpers, yesterday reported that a further 350 employees had been put on short time, making 780 in all.

Ending of the 11-week-old strike at Massey-Ferguson, a major customer for the component makers, has eased the situation temporarily. But there is increasing concern about the position of component suppliers as unsecured creditors of British Leyland.

Some 1,500 workers at the Ransome Hoffman Pollard bearings factory at Amfield in Ipswich have been put on a four-day week.

Although the Government, through its 95 per cent holding in Leyland, may have a moral obligation to its suppliers, it

has no legal obligation. For this reason a number of the smaller component firms will soon be forced to protect themselves by introducing pro forma invoicing—payment on delivery.

Big suppliers like Lucas and Guest, Keck & Nettlefolds are maintaining normal credit facilities although watching the position very closely. A Lucas executive said last night: "Our settlement date for Leyland remains what it is for other firms—the end of the month. We have not resorted to pro forma invoicing although that must be a temptation for some of the small suppliers."

Another component manufacturer said: "We have more at stake than Leyland in seeing the company past its present crisis. For every 40 workers employed by Leyland there are another 60 supporting them in the component industry. It is up to all of us to tighten our belts and try to see them through."

"I cannot see any of the major suppliers pulling the plug on Leyland and demanding payment against delivery—at least not until the end of the month. But our stock inventories are rising and we shall soon have to protect ourselves by cutting back production and laying off workers. We could have more than one-third of our employees laid off within a fortnight."

Leyland has urged suppliers to maintain production until the last possible moment to build component stocks in readiness of a resumption. Leyland has said that it plans to work maximum overtime in its car plants to try to recover some of the lost ground before the vital spring and summer sales period.



Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, arriving at British Leyland headquarters in London yesterday.

Borthwick makes £10m takeover bid direct to FMC shareholders

By Ronald Pullen

After months of stock market rumours, Thomas Borthwick finally made its move for fellow meat traders and processors, FMC, yesterday.

Borthwick is offering seven of its own shares for every six in FMC, which with orkwith has 30 to 37p on the news of the offer, values FMC at 101p a share compared with a pre-bid price of 70p and a high amidst this year's bid fever of 91p.

This places a value of just over £10m on FMC, though orkwith currently holds 1.75 per cent of FMC's equity.

In the closely-linked meat business, the two companies are well known to each other. Two years ago FMC approached orkwith with a view to agreeing merger terms, but talks broke down following the involvement of the NCU Development Trust which had previously made a 65p a share offer for FMC.

Talks between the two began in earnest last November, but following failure to agree terms, orkwith has now decided to go over the head of the FMC board and the NCU Trust, which now holds 42.9 per cent of the equity, to shareholders directly.

Borthwick said yesterday that "notwithstanding the striking logic of a merger, the board of FMC and the representatives of the NCU Trust have so far declined to accept Borthwick's proposals or to recommend them to shareholders."

Explaining the logic, Dr Bill Bullen, chairman of Borthwick, said that "FMC's large domestic fresh and frozen meat business would complement Borthwick's large overseas and export business."

He also thought that the two groups could together better exploit the growing intra-EEC meat business, particularly as Borthwick's abattoirs have already received their EEC licence.

Dr Bullen felt that to bring FMC's abattoirs up to EEC standards would place some strain on its cash flow in the next few years.

Following its purchase of Midland Cattle Products, Dr Bullen also thought that Borthwick's could make better use of FMC's animal by-products facilities.

Neither the Stock Exchange nor the Takeover Panel would say whether or not they were considering an inquiry into dealings in FMC shares prior to yesterday's bid announcement, in particular the sharp drop in FMC's share price last Friday when informal talks between the two broke down.

Borthwick is being advised by Morgan Grenfell while FMC has replaced its usual advisers, Hill Samuel, with Barclays Merchant Bank.

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Norwest to face DoT investigation

By Richard Allen

Norwest Holst, the civil engineering and building contracting group, is to be the subject of a Department of Trade investigation.

Apart from announcing that inspectors had been appointed under section 155(b) of the Companies Act 1947, the Department refused to comment yesterday. But Mr E. A. Brian, Norwest's chief executive, said last night that his board had "no idea" why the inquiry had been called.

The investigation comes soon after a bitter boardroom battle which led to Mr Dennis Le Mare, whose family controls 27 per cent of the equity, being ousted from the chairmanship.

Early last year the Takeover Panel refused its consent for a "conditional agreement" for the sale by the Le Mare family of their holding to a consortium led by directors Mr R. Slater and Mr A. J. Lacey.

The consortium in which a subsidiary of First National Finance Corporation has an interest is now thought to have increased its stake in the group to around 35 per cent.

Sterling's decline lost Esso £46m last year

By Our Financial Staff

Esso Petroleum has estimated that sterling's sharp decline last year cost the group £46m in exchange losses on its huge overseas borrowings.

The British arm of Exxon, the world's largest oil group, has written this sum off against past and future losses on repayment of overseas borrowings, made mainly to finance North Sea exploration and development work.

After the £46m extraordinary item, which compares with a similar item of £18m in 1975, the Esso group produced a net loss of £13m for 1976 compared with a net profit of £29m in the previous year.

Turnover excluding excise duties and VAT increased to £1,473m from £1,161m, but the group reports that profitability has suffered as a result of high competition in the energy industry.

It is estimated that there is now 30 per cent over-capacity in the United Kingdom refining industry, while price competi-

tion—particularly evident in petrol retailing—has made it impossible for the group fully to recoup crude price increases imposed by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Meanwhile, group capital expenditure, including continuing heavy investment in the North Sea, totalled £250m, giving net assets employed at the year end of over £1,000m.

Esso in partnership with Shell already has two big North Sea fields in operation—Auk and Brent—and many others are being developed.

In January Exxon announced total group net profits up from £2,500m to £2,640m and gave a warning that overseas volume increases had not been reflected in earnings because of delays in increasing prices.

Esso Italiana yesterday reported heavy losses again last year and blamed inadequate and tardy official price increase authorizations.

Repeating hints that it may be forced to withdraw from Italy if the price system is not improved, the Exxon subsidiary announced a net loss of about £21m, against £19.4m previously.

Heads of 21 unions in search for peace formula

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

Peace talks between leaders of the 21 unions in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and management of the state-owned car company continued into the night as losses mounted to £12m a week net, and the prospects for holding on to Leyland's share of the British market slid alarmingly.

The talks were adjourned after nearly six hours and "due to the seriousness of the position" the unions and the company are seeking advice from Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry. The discussions will resume at midday today.

British Leyland dealers are beginning to switch to other makes, including foreign cars, and waiting times for some models have now gone up to a year.

But the company announced new lay-offs of 4,000 at the Rover body plant in Lincoln and another 2,000 men at Cowley be-

cause of the toolmakers' unofficial strike now in its fourth week.

Top officials of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, including Mr John Boyd, the general secretary, met the union's sponsored MPs in Parliament last night to discuss the growing risk to Leyland's future.

Their talks were aimed at producing a political initiative which would secure Leyland's long-term future, and produce a package of measures which could mitigate the short-term harm caused by the constraint of Phase Two incomes policy.

British Leyland yesterday refused to go on the defensive over its industrial relations record, arguing that if it were free to reform its pay bargaining structures, then the state firm could meet its target of one million cars a year.

The loss of man-hours due to stoppages at Leyland factories last year amounted to only half the 1975 total, but the chief

culprit was the cars division. In the bus and truck plants, the loss was only 0.41 per cent of man-hours, and it was half that in the special products group.

There were 700 strikes in Leyland last year, but it is pointed out that every work-hour of more than one hour is logged in company records as a strike. More than 80 per cent of the man-hours lost through industrial action were attributable to about a dozen big stoppages in the car division.

Most of the disputes were resolved on terms originally offered by the management.

Leyland's car division management recognizes the gravity of the situation, but says some of the blame on the vagaries of history and the inheritance of 37 plants with 120 bargaining units manned by shop stewards used to negotiating their own local rates.

"That habit dies hard", it is argued, "and that habit is one of the reasons we are now in trouble."

BL management is seeking to bring its collective bargaining practices closer into line with those of Vauxhall and Ford Motors by harmonizing the anniversary date of wage agreements in different plants, reducing the number of bargaining units, and by establishing a common rate for similar jobs throughout the company's system.

This process, on which tentative beginnings were made before the £6 policy was introduced in 1975, will be restarted as soon as the company is given the freedom to negotiate under a flexible Phase Three.

But even when this move to wage centralisation is allowed to proceed against shop stewards are expected to slow up the process because they are suspicious of the shift away from plant bargaining. A half-way house, leaving some matters over to plant negotiation, may be all that is permissible under the next round of incomes policy.

Tea could cost 38p a quarter by the summer

A warning yesterday that tea could reach 34p to 38p a quarter by the late summer may cause Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, to ask the Price Commission to intervene. Prices shot up again at the London Tea Auction in the City, and Mr Willie Hamilton, Labour MP for Rife, Central, demanded that the Government take action over "blatant gouging" in the tea market.

The average price rose from 165p a kilogram (80p a pound) last week to more than £2. Mr George Neale, chairman of the Tea Brokers Association, said afterwards: "The average price will be much lower. I should think it will be slightly in excess of £2 a kilo."

Dealers estimated that if the average settled at about 210p a kilo, prices in the shops could reach 34p to 38p.

Two investment trusts in £70m merger discussions

By Christopher Watkins

Two more investment trusts are planning a merger to create a grouping worth more than £70m.

United States Debenture Corporation and London Scottish American Trust, both of which are linked to the merchant bank Brown Shipley, have reached an advanced stage for a merger on the basis of a share exchange at net asset values.

Mr Ian Garnett-Orme, former chairman of Brown Shipley, is chairman of both trusts.

The merger proposal, which is likely to be viewed as a defensive one to deter unwelcome bidders, is yet further evidence of the revival of activity in the investment trust sector. In

US demand for tariff increase on TV imports

From Fred Emery

Washington, March 14 President Carter was today formally urged to raise tariffs on imported colour and monochrome television sets.

The United States International Trade Commission, having found last week that imports—principally from Japan—were causing serious injury to the domestic industry, voted a five-year increase of duties on colour sets (both complete and incomplete) from the present 5 per cent.

A sliding scale was recommended: duties would jump to 25 per cent for the first two years, be reduced to 20 per cent for the next two years, and 15 per cent for the fifth year.

Mr Carter has 60 days from the receipt of the notice of the commission's vote—but must finally draft—to approve or refuse the recommendation.

Share prices have best day for three months

Share prices burst through the psychological 420 barrier on the stock market in London yesterday as the scent of an easing of dividend restraint brought a strong demand that was later sustained by the trade figures.

The FT 30-share index, 9.7 up at 3 pm, gained another 3.3 after the trade news to close a full 13 points better at 428.8, its highest level since November, 1973, and strongest daily performance for almost three months.

Dealers said the initial impetus came from the Treasury's decision to exempt Income from dividend controls because of the high overseas content of its earnings. This was interpreted as a "chink of light in the dividend curtain."

Many of these ended with double-figure gains, but second-line stocks were largely overlooked. With the Budget due in two weeks, most market men expect the traditional market run-up to take the index to the 450 mark now that 420 has been breached.

Government stocks also had a strong session, spurred by hopes of lower interest rates

Dutch want EEC invitation to London summit talks

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, March 14 Holland gave warning here today that unless the European Economic Community was represented at the economic summit due to take place in London in early May the Dutch Government might be less willing than in the past to take part in international loans designed to help economically weaker Community partners.

Those so far invited to attend the summit are Britain, Germany, France, and Italy—who will be present in their own right and not as EEC spokesmen—in addition to the United States, Japan and Canada.

Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission, said that both he and Mr David Owen, the President-in-office of the EEC's Council of Ministers, should also be invited.

All the small EEC countries support this position, on the grounds that the London summit will be discussing matters which impinge on the EEC's commercial relations with the outside world. Among the big countries, only France is now holding out stubbornly against Community representation.

At a meeting of EEC finance ministers here, Mr Wym Duisenberg, the Dutch Finance Minister, said Holland had gladly paid more than its fair share of last year's \$3,900m (about £2,280m) IMF standby loan for Britain. The Dutch contribution had been \$105m, compared with \$50m from France and \$20m from Belgium.

There was no question of Holland going back on obligations it had already accepted, Mr Duisenberg said, but "it must no longer be assumed that Holland will automatically contribute more than its appropriate share."

This should be borne in mind for the future when loans for France and Italy might be under consideration.

Peter Norman writes from Bonn: With the London economic summit less than two months away, West Germany's monetary authorities are stepping up their campaign to persuade the world that their present economic policies do not stand in need of correction. Today the West German Federal Bank, in its latest monthly report, took issue with those who argue that Germany's trade and payments surpluses are too large.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 174.42+3.31

The FT index: 428.9+13.0

Rises			
Asa Port Cement	9p to 194p	Patterson Zoch	20p to 200p
Bechtel	10p to 444p	Redcliff & Colman	15p to 370p
De Beers Ind	15p to 375p	Rio Tinto Zinc	7p to 215p
Finlay, J.	20p to 215p	Scot Univ Inv	10p to 15p
FMC	16p to 85p	Shell	11p to 520p
Gill & Duns	15p to 205p	Exor Woodrow	16p to 302p
Glen	17p to 482p	Unilever	26p to 486p
Gr Ind Stores	15p to 225p	Uth City Merc	4p to 32p
Harwick Sld	12p to 540p	Vickers	12p to 178p
Imp Chem Ind	20p to 215p	Wigfall, H.	25p to 150p
Lloyds FIC	4p to 40p	Yarrow	15p to 214p
Marey	6p to 65p		

Falls			
Ayer Hitam	22p to 375p	Lake & Elliot	10p to 50p
Brown Shipley	8p to 130p	Norwest Holst	8p to 66p

Equities surged ahead. SDR-S was 1.15689 on Monday, while SDR-E was 0.673276. Commodities: Renter's index was at 1730.8 (previous 1727.3). The effective rate was unchanged at 62.0 (December 1971-100) on the new index.

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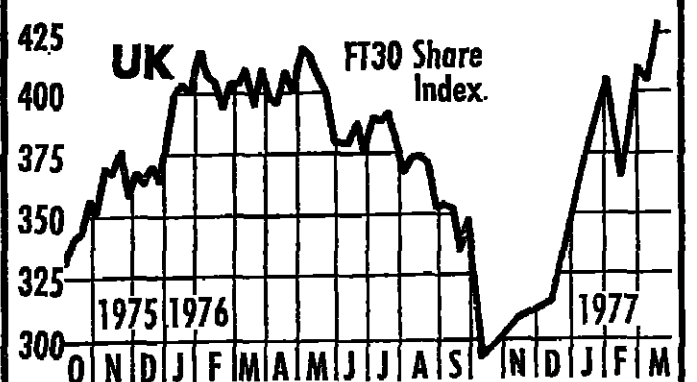
Share prices have best day for three months

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and trade figures which were at the top end of the range of estimates.

Long dates opened a point better ahead of the figures, and then gained another one-quarter after their announcement. Late in the day most stocks reverted to their lunchtime positions as a strong two-way trade developed.

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Plessey workers end lockouts to allow more talks on closures

By R. W. Shakespeare

Workers at four Plessey Telecommunications factories on Merseyside yesterday called off the lockout of senior management after members of three white collar unions voted to open the way for further talks with the company.

Members of the three unions—Apex (clerical and computer staff), ASTMS (scientific, technical and supervisors) and IASS (the technical and supervisory section of the AUEW)—refused admission to leading executives at the plants after Plessey announced more than a week ago intentions to close down the Merseyside plants and to transfer the 4,000 jobs, mostly on Merseyside and in the north-east.

The company's headquarters

plant at Edge Lane, in Liverpool was one of those at which the lockout took place and senior management have operated from a Chester hotel.

Protest action by the unions over the planned closures and cuts for which the company blames a fall in Post Office orders for telephone equipment, is by no means over.

Union and shop floor representatives will oppose the cuts in talks with the company at local level on Merseyside and nationally. These are likely to get underway today.

The Government is already under pressure to intervene, especially on Merseyside, where unemployment already stands at 10.6 per cent. The Plessey cuts would mean the loss of 1,300 jobs.

A union spokesman said after yesterday's decision to end the

lockout: "This is simply a move to allow further talks to take place. It is by no means an end to the opposition to the closures and redundancies."

Among suggestions put to the Government is that finance workers' cooperative in one or more of the Merseyside plants that are to close.

Government spokesmen have said that before any such proposal could be considered there would have to be a practical product for the plants concerned.

In a statement last week Plessey gave a warning that the action being taken at the Merseyside plants was producing a "complex legal situation" and that the workers involved ran the risk of forfeiting their rights to pay and compensation—including redundancy pay.

Accountants seek to keep insurance rights

By John Brennan

The main accountancy bodies are opposing Government proposals to classify insurance intermediaries into independent brokers and company-linked agents.

In a memorandum to the Department of Trade, the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies argues that this two-tier classification outlined in the recent White Paper on Insurance Intermediaries, oversimplifies the position.

The CCAB proposes that the Government recognises the role of the professional financial adviser in any legislation limiting the right to sell or advise on the sale of insurance policies.

The Committee, while supporting the principles of the White Paper and the proposed

system of self-regulation and registration for insurance brokers, argues the case for exempting accountants and members of other professions who provide insurance advice from registration as brokers.

The CCAB believes that professional financial advisers should be allowed to continue their existing advisory services provided they meet certain standards of expertise, ethics and financial probity, and declare to clients any links they may have with an insurance company.

The Committee hopes that the Government will recognise the accountancy bodies as regulators of standards for such financial advisers.

These proposals are unlikely to meet the much enthusiasm from the insurance brokers.

Spurious comparison in pay differentials

From Mr Robin Chatter and Mr Stephen Palmer

Sir, Richard Layard and Professor Orley Ashenfelter have questioned the "conventional wisdom" that differentials have been squeezed in recent years. They ask—where is the evidence?

Their own evidence to the contrary is based on a comparison of the earnings of full time adult men during the period 1970-1976. They have taken the earnings of the men 10 per cent below the top and 10 per cent above the bottom of the earnings ladder and drawn attention to the apparent consistency of these figures in relation to average weekly earnings.

Such comparisons are spurious! There is no way in which a general stability in the distribution of earnings can be used as a valid indicator of the structure of differentials. As the Pay Board in its 1974 Report pointed out, the term differentials denotes "... the pay differences occurring within a single negotiating group..."

There is no reason to believe that those near the top and bottom of the earnings ladder will be in the same negotiating group from one year to the next. Let alone the same industry, occupation or even firm.

Researches indicate that differentials on the whole have been widening considerably in recent years. As far as engineering manual workers are concerned, for instance, the gap between the earnings differential of the average skilled over unskilled men has narrowed from 44.4 per cent in June, 1972, to about 30 per cent in June, 1976. In June, 1975, the gap was 33 per cent.

Another important group of skilled manual workers—those employed by the local authorities—have suffered a substantial erosion of differentials since an attempt was made to

change their wage structure in 1969. From that time the gap between the top and bottom of the wage scale has been reduced from 21.8 per cent to 13.6 per cent, in spite of an attempt to redress the balance in July, 1975.

Mr Layard and Professor Ashenfelter explain that the New Earnings Survey does not match those of the pay policy. This proviso is particularly important in view of the large increases in earnings between April and July 1975, just before the pay policy began—between June and July alone the official earnings index rose by nearly 5 per cent.

Looking for example at white-collar workers in the public sector, the clerical workers with British Rail, Electricity Supply, Gas Supply, Local Authorities and National Health received their average one increase after the 1976 New Earnings Survey reference date. Only about half of all primary and secondary school teachers had received their 56, while over half a million civil servants had their 1975 and 1976 increases pushed in together.

Although it is quite meaningless to compare simple earnings movements between a week in April 1975 and 1976, over the longer period 1974-6 there is considerable evidence from collective agreements that white-collar differentials have been squeezed by, in many cases, as much as 10 per cent.

Mr Layard and Professor Ashenfelter's conclusion that differentials in gross pay must have been reduced in the past two years is a rather curious rider to an account that allows very little doubt that their "unconventional" preconceptions are, at best, correct.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN CHATTER,
STEPHEN PALMER,
Incomes Data Services Ltd,
140 Great Portland Street,
London W1N 6AA.

Waste—and letting cats out of bags

From Brigadier R. L. Allen

Sir, Mr Stewart Dakers is entirely correct in pointing out the waste which arises in government departments in a mad scramble to spend the budget allocation every year, lest it be forfeited. I heard recently from an impeccable source that a hospital spent thousands of pounds on colour television sets for that very reason. It needed medical equipment desperately at the time, but there was a way it could carry forward unspent sums of money into the following year to match delivery dates.

On March 19, 1957, you published a leader page article by Mr. E. J. Allen, entitled "Accounting in the Army—antique system costs more than it saves". This, inter alia, with this problem. The finance branches of the War Office spent months trying to suppress the article and prevent its publication as a serving officer's permission to publish. After publication and questions in the House, the Treasury wanted me to go to the War Office to confer with them on a plan of that committee. The article, but the PUS at the War Office forbade me to do so.

Financial establishments in government are erected more to protect the accounting officers from their stupendous personal responsibilities under the 1881 Exchequer and Audit Department Act than to shield the taxpayer from absurdity and abuse of financial resources. I know for a fact, because I worked it out at the time, that as we costed it in the 1950s obtain £120,000 for essential works improvements, £7m was wasted.

This kind of information very rarely reaches the Public Accounts Committee, and Mr Edward du Cann, the chairman of that committee, has acknowledged recently that they are merely scratching the surface of abuses in their reports. They have themselves partly to blame, because when they are allowed to send far too many people to the House to send for persons who do not know the facts anyway, and have to be briefed.

Nor of course do persons care much for letting cats out of the bags of their own work. It is under the 1886 Act they have to foot the bill for their own private purses!

Yours faithfully,
R. L. ALLEN, CBE
(Brigadier, retired),
Thorn Knoll,
Hertfordshire,
March 2.

Pact with Spain on steel bars

Further protection for British steel against foreign imports was announced by the Government yesterday. New minimum prices on imports of steel reinforcing bars have been agreed with Spain by the Department of Trade.

Mr. Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, told the Commons yesterday that the agreement on new minimum prices followed prolonged negotiations with the Spanish authorities.

No details were given of the prices which had been agreed, but according to trade sources they are thought to be between £140 and £150 a tonne in line with present market prices being charged by British steel producers.

The first application for an anti-dumping duty against imports of Spanish reinforcing bars—a volatile commodity product in the steel business widely used in the construction industry—was first lodged in September, 1975.

Mr Dell said yesterday that since then there had been a considerable increase in world steel prices and a new price agreement had been sought.

Mr Dell also said the Government was also launching an anti-dumping investigation into imports of steel light sections and flats from Japan.

Dearer flour plea withdrawn

By Derek Harris

Planned price increases for bakers' flours and products, submitted by three millers for Price Commission approval have been withdrawn, the Commission reported yesterday.

In February, Spillers-French Milling wanted a 3.87 per cent increase on flour, Heygates wanted 5.05 per cent and Isaac Andrews and Sons 5.34 per cent on flour products.

But a range of cement price

risers have been agreed, although with some modifications. Among seven pricing applications were allowed at around the 3.25 per cent level.

Associated Portland Cement modified a 3.47 per cent increase to 3.26 per cent, although special cement goes up 6.66 per cent. Rugby Portland Cement and Tunnel Cement have agreed a 3.26 per cent increase, also down from 3.47 per cent.

LR Industries dropped an application for increasing the price of contraceptives by 4.29 per cent.

During February one Category II distributor agreed to make price reductions of £150,000 to work off earlier excess profits. Category III companies, after inspections of their records, agreed to price reductions worth £426m to eliminate excess profits.

Chain stores upset toy retailers

By Our Commercial Editor

Independent toy retailers almost universally identify as a major problem the invasion of toy retailing by other types of trader—and they place "significant proportion" of the blame on toy manufacturers.

This is one conclusion in a study, sponsored by British LEGO, of the independent toy retailers in the United Kingdom by the Manchester Business School.

The chain stores, such as F. W. Woolworth, Boots and W. H. Smith, are generally considered the most serious competition of the independents, the survey states. Less than a quarter of 300 retailers questioned in the survey thought discounters or superstores were the chief competition.

At the time of the survey in early 1976 the most common mark-up on toy trade was 50 per cent (with 39 per cent of all the businesses using it as their benchmark). But 12 per cent of the businesses accepted mark-ups of less than 50 per cent.

According to the survey, new entrants and younger retailers generally operate with higher mark-ups than older traders, more of whom are worried about the effects of toys being sold through discount stores.

The importance of the specialist outlet to the manufacturer is underlined in the survey. Some 43 per cent of toy sales are made through shops relying on toys for more than 80 per cent of their sales.

The independent Toy Retailer, by Manchester Business School, sponsored by British LEGO from which copies are available at the cost of the book, £5.95. SUR (complete findings £8 from the publisher).

Best methods of accounting

From Professor D. R. Myddelton

Sir, It is hardly surprising that the Treasury and the Bank of England, having been responsible for the greatest currency debasement in British history, are now resisting the introduction of a genuine system of inflation accounting (current purchasing power) which would at least help mitigate some of its damaging effects on business.

Virtually nobody accepts the Sandilands claim that a currency of accounting is a fully comprehensive method of accounting for inflation; and

for at least the last 25 years a major objective of C.P.P. has been its political unacceptability.

Finally, therefore, the crucial question is being reached. Who will determine the best methods of accounting in Britain: accountants or politicians?

Yours faithfully,
D. R. MYDDELTON,
Professor of Finance and Accounting,
Cranfield School of Management,
Cranfield, Bedford MK43 0AL,
March 1.

Vickers and ICL control systems

New computer-based manufacturing-control systems are being introduced by the engineering group of Vickers, after collaboration with ICL and Datskild and support from the Department of Industry.

A general-purpose manufacturing system is expected to be launched soon by ICL; two advanced versions of this are being developed in-house by Vickers.

Under the overall name OMACS (On-line manufacturing and control system), two projects were brought together into single development in 1975. One was a Vickers production-control project; the other an ICL Datskild project for a simple production-control system for the ICL 2903 small computer.

Joint talks resulted in a DOL development contract with ICL; a contract for Datskild to develop the software for ICL; and an agreement between ICL and Vickers which defined the Vickers participation as the initial user.

ICL's general system, it is expected, will initially have three modules, covering work in progress monitoring; requirements planning and stock control; and on-line input and inquiry. It will be aimed at small and medium-sized engineering companies using ICL 2903, 2904 and 1900-series computers.

In a general-purpose extension of the basic ICL package, Vickers are developing a more advanced on-line system which will provide more comprehensive inquiry facilities. This uses the TPS 1900 teleprocessing monitor developed by Telecomputing, Oxford (with government support under the Software Products Scheme).

Vickers plan to market this

Computer news

version, possibly through Datskild.

The second Vickers adaptation of the ICL package consists of interfaces and extensions which are being written in order to link the general systems with particular in-house installations.

Vickers Engineering Group's main computer centre is at Interlink House, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Other centres are at Leeds, Swindon, York and Paris, all of which use ICL 2903 or 2904 machines. An ICL 1903T at Newcastle is to be replaced by a 2960 towards the end of this year.

CUYB directory
Details of 745 software products are included in CUYB Directory of Software 1977, published today at £15 by the Computer Users' Year Book, Bournemouth. They range from simple accounting packages to complex computer-aided design programs used in the construction and engineering industries.

£1.7m NCC contracts
Contracts worth £1.7m are being placed with the National Computing Centre by the Computers, Systems and Electronics Requirements Board (CSERB) of the Department of Industry. Some of these contracts extend to 1980.

They include work on computing methods, computing with communications, database, software, microprocessors, privacy and security, and standardization.

This coincides with the

change from the grant-in-aid system of government funding for the centre to one in which contracts for specific projects are placed directly by the relevant government agencies.

This change takes place next month. For the 1977-78 year, the total value of the CSERB work to the NCC is £900,000, or slightly less than 40 per cent of the centre's total revenue.

Turnover up 60 pc
Software Sciences of Farnborough, Hampshire, has reported a 60 per cent increase in turnover to £2.6m for the year ending October, 1976. Pre-tax profits rose by 82 per cent to £293,000.

During the year, Mr Colin Southgate, chairman, reports that large implementation teams were working at home and abroad on such projects as an electronic bank, staff information system, a real-time defence project, and an airline departure control system.

Consultancy clients included nationalized industry, the Central Computer Agency, the Ministry of Defence, the European Space Agency and the fire services. Turnkey systems covered transaction processing, defence, insurance and commercial accounting.

Research service
A subscription-based research service covering computer systems, telecommunications and office automation is to be provided by the Butler Cox Foundation, a recently formed offshoot of Butler Cox & Partners, the London-based consultants. The research projects will be managed by Mr Roger Woolfe.

Kenneth Owen

Massey has 'good restart'

Massey Ferguson's Coventry tractor factory resumed production yesterday for the first time in nearly three months following last Thursday's return-to-work vote by striking assembly workers.

A company spokesman said: "We had about 400 specialist workers in on Friday and over the weekend to prepare for a general restart today of all 4,500 employees. Apart from a few minor snags which were to be expected after such a long shutdown, we have made a pretty good restart."

He said it would be several days before management was able to assess the performance of the two key assembly gangs.

Lower rate on interest relief grants

A reduction was announced yesterday in the maximum rate of interest relief grant and interest on loans under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972. The rate of interest relief grants available in cases eligible for the equivalent of an interest-free period on a Department of Industry loan, but where companies obtain their finance elsewhere, is reduced from 14.5 to 10 per cent for each interest-free year.

The concessionary rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects is reduced from 11.5 to 11 per cent and the broadly commercial rate of interest on loans for modernization projects, not providing additional employment, drops from 14.5 to 14 per cent.

Hull rail workers' strike stops ships
Ships will be unable to berth at or leave the docks at Hull today because 300 railwaymen, including those who open the dock gates for ships, stopped work at midnight for 24 hours in protest against British Rail's plans to withdraw their services to the docks.

TERMS OF TRADE
The following are the unit value index numbers for visible trade not seasonally adjusted, issued by the Department of Trade yesterday:

	1970=100	Exports	Imports	Trade*
1972	111.0	109.6	101.3	
1973	126.0	139.7	90.2	
1974	162.7	218.0	74.6	
1975	245.1	245.0	91.0	
1976	240.6	299.4	80.4	
1976 Q1	219.0	288.3	81.6	
Q2	234.2	291.7	80.3	
Q3	247.4	307.3	80.5	
Q4	261.7	330.0	78.3	

* Export unit value index as a percentage of the Import Unit Value Index, p Provisional.

The following are the January trade figures seasonally adjusted and corrected on a balance of payments basis with allowance for known recording errors, as released by the Department of Trade:

	Exports	Imports	Visible Balance
1974	15,899	21,119	-5,220
1975	19,379	22,574	-3,195
1976	25,294	28,866	-3,572
1976 Q1	5,811	6,149	-338
Q2	6,209	7,128	-919
Q3	6,400	7,548	-1,148
Q4	7,074	8,061	-987
1976	1,932	2,224	-292
May	2,018	2,369	-351
June	2,070	2,395	-325
July	1,959	2,474	-515
Aug	2,072	2,419	-347
Sept	2,250	2,581	-331
Oct	2,306	2,624	-318
Nov	2,320	2,775	-455
Dec	2,448	2,662	-214
1977	2,472	3,004	-532
Jan	2,432	2,821	-389

* Provisional

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 00992 of 1977
In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, in the Matter of the Companies Act 1948, and in the Matter of the Companies (Winding-up) Order 1949.

Notice is hereby given that a petition for the winding-up of the company named in the Schedule to this notice, presented by the Liquidator of the company, was presented to the High Court of Justice on 28th January 1977, and that the petition was read and the court made an order on 28th January 1977, appointing the Liquidator as Provisional Liquidator.

WINDING-UP ORDER MADE
14th February 1977. The High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, in the Matter of the Companies Act 1948, and in the Matter of the Companies (Winding-up) Order 1949, made an order on 14th February 1977, appointing the Liquidator as Provisional Liquidator.

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LEGAL NOTICES

No. 00945 of 1977
In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, in the Matter of the Companies Act 1948, and in the Matter of the Companies (Winding-up) Order 1949.

Notice is hereby given that a petition for the winding-up of the company named in the Schedule to this notice, presented by the Liquidator of the company, was presented to the High Court of Justice on 28th January 1977, and that the petition was read and the court made an order on 28th January 1977, appointing the Liquidator as Provisional Liquidator.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Through the 420 barrier



Dr. Bill Bullen, chairman of Thomas Borthwick & Co.

Thomas Borthwick & Co. has been a success story since its formation in 1974.

The company's success is due to its focus on the automotive and aerospace sectors.

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into effect on January 1 have yet to bite and there should be a gradual growing demand for replacement shock absorbers, of which Armstrong is a major manufacturer, in the current half.

The shares fell 1p to 47p despite the attractions of sharply improving profits—£6.1m is expected for the year against £4.2m. And there are fears that in the longer-term Armstrong could run out of steam as the benefits of the wholesale acquisitions are realized and shock absorber competition increases. A prospective yield of 6 1/2 per cent and a P/E ratio of 7 1/2 makes the shares fully valued, are no help to the shares at this stage.

Interim: 1976/77 (1975/76)
Capitalization £21.9m
Sales £25.5m (£18.4m)
Pre-tax profits £2.7m (£1.8m)
Dividend gross 1.1p (1.0p)

Borthwick/FMC

NFU on the rack

Once again FMC shareholders find themselves in the middle of a controversial bid, this time from fellow motor traders Thomas Borthwick & Co. The bid, which is being made through the NFU Development Trust whose chief concern is to secure outlets for its members' produce.

Yesterday, Borthwick, with the enthusiastic support of the NFU which now owns just under 43 per cent of the equity, began drawing up their lines of defence against the bid on the grounds that the bid had little commercial logic, rather than that the terms were inadequate.

Certainly, the NFU would seem to have little justification for throwing out the bid on financial terms when Borthwick's offer places a value of 10.1p a share on FMC against a bid price of 70p.

True, that was launched at a time when FMC was in a much grimmer state than it appears to be in now, with assets per share of 122p in the latest balance sheet could be half as much again on an up-to-date valuation. But in terms of the capital and income gains shareholders stand to get, they are being offered a reasonably attractive way out of what is still a very unsatisfactory situation with the NFU sitting uncomfortably in the wings.

But the practicalities of the situation are that Borthwick must sweep the NFU if it is to win control and already Borthwick's advisers are talking of a cash alternative or sweeter. Certainly, the NFU finds itself in an extremely awkward position since having bulldozed its way into FMC and creating a good deal of ill-will along the way it cannot easily throw in the towel to Borthwick without losing a lot of face.

As for Borthwick itself there is little doubt that it needs the ballast of a good home business to counterbalance the vagaries of its overseas meat interests and such a switchback record in recent years while at the same time FMC will help ease its advance corporation tax problems; while only a 3p drop in its shares to 87p yesterday indicates that the market is taking a more sanguine view of its paper nowdays.

Meanwhile, the other issue about which both sides were tossing mutual recriminations is the gyrations in the FMC share price in recent months. Bid rumors have been the cause of a sharp rise in prices this year. In fact, the situation is that the Department of Industry has asked the Bank of England to investigate dealings in lead after the claims by the British Battery Manufacturers' Association that LME prices had been inflated by speculative activity.

To judge by commodity brokers' reactions yesterday the markets are as sensitive as ever to charges that anything other than good old demand and supply governs price movements. Despite the recent admission last week that speculators had the cocoa market by the throat.

I went a little too far in saying that the London Metal Exchange had actually suspended non-trade activity in lead after the sharp rise in prices this year. In fact, the situation is that the Department of Industry has asked the Bank of England to investigate dealings in lead after the claims by the British Battery Manufacturers' Association that LME prices had been inflated by speculative activity.

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At a time when the clearing banks are under the threat of nationalization it seems singularly inappropriate that the big four among them should over the past three weeks have come up with such spectacular increases in their profits for 1976.

Between them Barclays, National Westminster, Midland and Lloyds have produced a pre-tax surplus of almost £700m, an improvement of 64 per cent on the previous year's performance—and that at a time when the demand for loans, particularly from industrial and commercial customers, has been almost static.

The banks are perfectly well aware that under these circumstances they are open to the charge of having a licence to print money; and if the charge is difficult to repudiate, profits rise when interest rates are high and all the banks admit that the rise in base rate last year was an important factor in their pre-tax advance.

They have at any rate been expending themselves to justify this consequence by reference to their balance sheets.

Those of both Lloyds and Barclays have recently come out, and they provide an opportunity to look into the banks' case. This, essentially, is a question of the strength of a bank's balance sheet—whether total capital (shareholders' funds and long-term loan capital) as a proportion of reserves, or free capital (total capital less the money tied up in premises and other fixed assets). The matter is at present exercising minds both in the clearing banks and at the Bank of England.

But on the traditional definition (total capital as a proportion of reserves) the balance sheets which Lloyds and Barclays have just published bear the banks' contention out.

Now this begs the whole question of what the best measure of the strength of a bank's balance sheet is—whether total capital (shareholders' funds and long-term loan capital) as a proportion of reserves, or free capital (total capital less the money tied up in premises and other fixed assets). The matter is at present exercising minds both in the clearing banks and at the Bank of England.

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The banks—profits, capital and the race against inflation

Adrianne Gleeson,

Banking

Correspondent,

examines the

effects on the

clearers'

balance sheets

of soaring inflation

Thanks to the effects of sterling depreciation and volume growth in the borrowings of their international subsidiaries, total deposits of both Lloyds and Barclays have risen by more than the rate of inflation, rising by 18.4 per cent and 19 per cent respectively.

But even after a year in which pre-tax profits rose by 54 per cent in the first case and almost 40 per cent in the second (although the figures are not strictly comparable because of Barclays' very conservative accounting on, for example, unpaid interest due), retentions alone would have added less than 8.5 per cent to Lloyds' capital base, and less than 7 per cent to Barclays'.

That ratio, of course, favours the banks' plea in mitigation that retentions alone would have added less than 8.5 per cent to Lloyds' capital base, and less than 7 per cent to Barclays'.

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have added a quarter to Lloyds' free capital base, and under 15 per cent to that of Barclays'.

So the fact that Lloyds ended the year with its ratio of capital to deposits increased from 5.93 to 6.45 per cent, while that of Barclays was marginally better at 6.3 per cent, was substantially due to other factors—notably the issue of new loan capital in each case, a £70m rights issue in that of Lloyds, and property revaluations worth £20.7m and £57m respectively.

Now the banks can look for resistance from their shareholders if they attempt to raise money by way of rights too frequently unless they use the opportunity to boost their dividend payments, which would in turn erode the amount available by way of retentions to increase the capital base.

There is, moreover, no way in which they can look to frequent property revaluations as a means of pushing up their reserves. NatWest's attempts at reaching an up-to-date valuation cur £50m off its reserves.

The implication is that, at a time when double figure inflation is pushing bank deposits rapidly ahead, their capital ratios will be set for a steady deterioration. That, however, is not the worst of the situation. For there is also the increasing question of what happens to profits and by implication to capital adequacy when, as the politicians assure us, inflation comes down to single figures.

That happy day will not necessarily be greeted with rejoicing in the boardrooms of the banks. For single figure inflation implies lower interest rates and the banks' cost structures, at least on their domestic

banking operations, are now such that single figure interest rates will mean either lower profits or some radical restructuring of charges or operations.

As it is, the banks have shown a tendency, which not even the threat of nationalization has curbed, to widen their "retail margin"—the difference between base rate and the amount offered on seven-day deposits—when interest rates have fallen.

But with the "retail margin" now at four points, the scope for widening it further must be limited, particularly as, with interest rates falling, the gap will be relatively much more dramatic. The signs now are that the banks will instead adjust their charges by, for example, increasing the limit at which "free banking" becomes operable.

That could have a sharp effect on profitability—Midland Bank, for example, attributed a large part of its spectacular increase in pre-tax profits to the effects of the limited switch from totally free banking in the second half of last year.

But in the longer term it looks as though the banks will increase in pre-tax profits if they are to flourish in what is potentially a better economic climate. There are two possibilities: one is the curtailment of the branch services on the lines of the experiment which Midland is to pioneer in Southampton and Newcastle in the autumn; the other is the extension of the banks' existing financial services, with the aid of some more hard sell.

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Spreading the burden of cheap textile imports

Over the past few months government officials in capitals around the world have been preparing themselves for a round of crucial international negotiations in Geneva which open tomorrow.

The negotiations concern the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) concluded under the aegis of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) three years ago and designed to provide a framework for the orderly development of international trade in textiles between the developed and less developed countries of the world.

The present MFA expires at the end of this year and the future of the arrangement will have a vital bearing on the aspirations of the textile industries of the less developed countries and on the survival of the industry in a number of industrialized nations.

Last week the EEC Council of Ministers approved the Community's preliminary negotiating position for the MFA. The position is still under discussion but the differences between the EEC countries on points of detail. The West Germans and the Danes are less enthusiastic about the need for a fundamental renegotiation than the British and the French and it is the latter who are the main force for renegotiation or simply an extension of the present pact that the issue will have to be resolved.

At the last meeting of the committee before Christmas the EEC's chief negotiator, Mr. Benedict Meynell, made it abundantly clear that the Community saw a fundamental renegotiation of the pact as an essential feature of the forthcoming talks. Mr. Meynell said that the less developed countries that their textile exports to the Community had reached "insupportable proportions" and added that the recent rapid growth in imports could not be allowed to continue.

Mr. Meynell's tough stance in the preliminary shadow boxing gave heart to the hard pressed European textile industry which

has argued long and hard for the Commission to secure improved terms within the framework of the MFA. Contextually, the principal European textile organization has attacked the Commission's commercial policy in relation to the MFA as too weak and not least, with fall volume of imports permitted under bilateral agreements set too high. There has been criticism too of the way in which the Commission has handled negotiations with exporting countries.

Import penetration of Britain's clothing and textile industries has risen from 17 per cent four years ago to about 25 per cent at the present time while some individual sectors within the industry have seen imports claim well over 50 per cent of the domestic market.

One of the major shortcomings of the present arrangement is that it fails to provide adequate protection for importing countries in times of recession. Under the existing terms the rate of import growth is fixed at an annual rate of 6 per cent in good times and bedded in the growth factor was fixed at a time when the level of textile trade was relatively buoyant.

Another feature of the present deal is the base level at which the quotas were fixed. These were negotiated on the basis that the supplying countries would not be required to cut back their exports to less

than previous trade levels and, as bilateral negotiators dragged on, exporting countries boosted their supplies to artificially high levels to secure the maximum under MFA quota arrangements.

A third feature on which British and European exporters pressed for action is the introduction of adequate safeguard measures which will enable importing countries to deal effectively with new suppliers of sensitive textile and clothing products.

Mr. Meacher told the Commons that the Government was pressing for a new safeguard measure which would allow the introduction of a single quota to deal with all the disruptive or potentially disruptive imports of our textile and clothing industries, which provide employment for around 800,000 people.

We are determined to secure international agreements for textiles which provide adequate protection against disruptive, low cost imports so that those employed in these industries can feel secure in their jobs, and so that management will regain sufficient confidence to invest for the future," he said.

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Monetary movements

Because of fluctuations, monetary and financial trends are not easy to follow. The idea of this brief monthly survey is to step back a little from the weekly and even daily random movements in order to identify the most significant recent developments, at the same time tying them in with economic trends, which develop more slowly and evenly.

Our last report drew attention to the very appreciable improvement in the standing of the weak currencies, the franc and sterling, accompanied by the corresponding economic developments, with inflation rates being brought closer to those prevailing in the strong countries and trade deficits being reduced. Today, a few weeks later, the franc and sterling are once again losing a little ground.

In the case of the franc, despite the successes on the prices front during December and January leading to a somewhat artificial means admittedly—to a reduction in the rate of inflation from 10 per cent to 7 per cent (whereas it has risen to 5 per cent in West Germany and the United States), the day is far from having been won; with January's sharp rise in the trade deficit, and the political troubles and uncertainties in particular, it remains a suspect currency.

The Banque de France intervened immediately to ensure that the rate did not rise above 4.95 francs to the dollar, which explains the brief rise in the overnight money rate to 10 per cent.

The pound, which had been rising so steeply that the Bank of England was obliged to buy

in more than \$1,000m and halt the reduction of minimum lending rate, has also experienced a slight reversal. Granted, the exchange rate has been holding up well at \$1.70, but January saw a sharp rise in inflation, from 16 per cent to 20 per cent, and the gap between this and the 11 per cent at which wages are rising, foreshadows difficulties for the third phase of the social contract.

It is nevertheless probable that the franc and the pound will be able to consolidate the ground—and credibility—they have gained since late 1976, and that it will be possible for interest rates to come down further in due course, at least in France. The same cannot yet be said of the lira.

It is one thing for weak currencies only just entering convalescence to suffer a relapse, but pressure on a strong currency like the dollar is more disturbing. The situation in the United States at the moment is very confused.

The rise in inflation to 5 per cent and January's record trade deficit of \$1,670m, are putting pressure on the dollar, which is tending to lose ground following its January recovery.

By contrast, the Deutsche mark and the yen in particular are back on an upward trend, a development encouraged by the recent statement from Mr Lawrence Klein, President Carter's adviser, to the effect that, short of action by West Germany and Japan to reflate their economies, he would like to see them revalue by 10 per cent.

Maurice Bommensath

THE ECONOMY

	Growth (%) Industrial production (1)	Investment (2)	Wage increases (%) (3)	Budget deficit (4) (\$1,000m)	Stability trade balance (5)
United States	+4	+3	8	(-3.8%) (\$70,000m)	(-1%) (\$1,250m)
West Germany	+4	+3	7	(-DM57,000m)	(+DM2,500m)
France	-1	1	14	(-FF30,000m)	(-FF5,000m)
Britain	+3	-2	11	(-£9,300m)	(-£62,000m)
Italy	+3	-10	25	(-1,340,000m lire)	(-520,000m lire)

(1) Three-month average expressed as annual rate.
(2) Estimate for 1977.
(3) Estimate for fiscal 1977-78.
(4) As percentage of gnp and in national currency.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS

	Annual growth per cent in money supply (1) (2)	Day to day (3)	Prime rate (4)	Against the dollar (5)	Against a basket of 6 currencies (6)	Change in stock exchange index (7)
Dollar	5	4	11/16	6.25	102.3	(-5)
Deutschmark	(6)	4	6.50	2.39	102.7	n.a.
Franc	(8)	9	9.80	(+1.3%)	(111.8)	-2 (-22)
Pound	(12)	11	10.50	(-0.2%)	(92.7)	2 (1)
Lira	(13)	16	20	(-0.2%)	(86.2)	8 (-23)
	(20)			(-0.4%)	(79.6)	

(6) Six months moving average expressed as annual rate.
(7) Figures in parentheses give percentage change in last month.
(8) End December 1975=100. Figure in parentheses gives position last month. Currencies are five listed in table plus Japanese yen.
(9) Change in previous month. Figure in parentheses gives change over previous 12 months.

Bemrose Corp puffs but trudges on

By Ray Maughan

Although Bemrose Corporation has grown 19 per cent compound since 1970, the climb proved hard to sustain in the second half of the year to January 1 last.

In the first six months, the printing, packaging and publishing group was almost 30 per cent to the good at £1.13m. But the gain has come back to a mere 6 per cent at £2.21m for the year.

The annual 21 per cent sales rise points to tighter margins where the impact of sterling's collapse on import prices and the April wage award were largely to blame.

Since a large part of the business is contracted, selling prices are hard to adjust quickly.

This year, Bemrose is looking to more stable import costs of vital raw materials and it hopes for a turnaround in the cartons division.

After a profit in 1975, car-

tons turned in an unquantified deficit last year as falling demand slashed margins and throughput. But the division swung back into the black last October.

Exports, which now contribute about a fifth of total sales, should also push ahead, especially since the introduction of sophisticated new security printing and flexible packaging equipment has enabled Bemrose to take business from established overseas competitors.

While happy with its market rating, the group has taken the unusual step of comparing its performance with that of its five main competitors.

Growth in these companies can usually appear more dramatic, the board believes because this often includes recovery.

Its own record is uniquely unbroken since 1974 although comparisons conveniently start before 1973 when Bemrose stumbled on the entry into the transfer printing market.

The shares were unchanged at 64p yesterday. The maximum total dividend of 4.14p puts them on a yield of 6.5 per cent.

CH has 40 pc of Beaver, bid extended

The contested £1.2m bid from CH Industriale for Beaver Group has been extended until Friday March 25 following acceptance for 674,500 of the ordinary shares.

With the 90,000 shares held before the offer and the 297,000 bought since the announcement, CH Industriale, the old Coventry Hood and Sidescreen, has about 40 per cent of Beaver's equity, nearly 32 per cent of the first preference shares, 71 per cent of the second preference and 74 per cent of the "M" shares.

Representing 41 per cent of the votes at a Beaver annual meeting.

Beaver, a paint, foam and building group, has been buying its own shares. Heddewick, Stirling, Crumbar says that it bought 7,500 of them on March 11 at 39p for Beaver.

The Office of Fair Trading has confirmed that no reference will be made to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Business appointments

Hogg Robinson Group has new financial director

Mr J. R. Potts, at present financial director of F. W. Woolworth, is to become financial director of Hogg Robinson Group on May 1.

Mr B. J. Butler has been made deputy managing director of Hogg Robinson (UK). Mr R. Barrett becomes director.

Mr S. E. Jess and Mr R. W. Joynt have joined the board of Quinton Hazell (Holdings). Mr J. E. Brockwell and Mr J. W. Turner are now joint managing directors of Potterton International.

Mr A. C. Dickenson, United Kingdom sales and marketing director, is additionally made responsible for overseas sales and marketing.

Mr T. Vincent Learson has been re-elected to the board of Carburant.

Mr J. Ross McGibbon is to retire as joint managing director of Whittall on March 31, but will remain on the board as a non-executive director. Mr D. Cameron Lindsay, at present joint managing director with Mr McGibbon, becomes group managing director on April 1.

Mr David Lever has been made managing director of T. T. Barrow Hope.

Mr G. M. Chichester is now a director of C. E. Heath (Aviation). Mr Tom Nisbet is leaving Charles Barker Lyons in April to join the board of Glaxo.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Dividend hopes, trade figures a heady brew

The apparent relaxation of dividend controls for companies with high overseas earnings, and trade figures at the top end of the range of estimates and hopes of still lower interest rates, helped share prices to reach, and hold on to, their best levels for almost three and a half years.

The FT Index, 9.7 up at 3 pm, gained another 3.3 after the trade figures and by the close it stood a full 13 points better than 228.8, its lowest point since November 3, 1973, and breaking through the psychological 420 mark. It was also the best daily

Up went ATV 2p to 84p as thoughts turned to the financial year ending this month. Profits of more than £10m, against £5.6m, seem in prospect and these would take the group well away from the £5m-£7.5m of the past nine years. The dividend too should be fully restored.

The big move into films besides the advertising boom is the key, but it has to be seen how the market will react. A better yield is offered by Anglo, also sharing in the advertising boom, and the shares, at 118p, are strongly backed by cash.

performance for almost three months. Dealers said the initial impetus came from the Treasury's decision to allow

In the bid front, FMC jumped 16p to 86p in spite of a rejection of the Borthwick terms. Kode International slipped 4p to 76p after the breakdown of talks and news of a big share placing, while

sector shares, notably house-builders like Barratt Developments, up 6p to 83p, Taylor Woodrow 16p to 302p and Costain 10p to 169p, all moved up but the same was not true of Norwest Holst, down 8p to 66p on the news of the appointment of Department of Trade inspectors.

Speculation about shipbuilding compensation terms brought a rise in the shipbuilding shares to 214p, while Commerce Vickers 12p to 178p and Cammex which ended 6p ahead at 60p.

Another with an interest in the Shipbuilding Bill is Hawker Siddeley which rose 12p to 540p

House Investment gained 5p to 241p on takeover hopes.

In their new form, GEC closed at 188p against Friday night's close of 204p with the capital loan notes ending at £58, having moved up from a start of £57.

Cheaper money hopes were good for several of the building

Now that its troublesome mail-order side has been sold, investors are taking a fresh interest in electrical retailer Henry Wigfall. Some expect a further expansion into retailing, while the cash released and the shares spurred 23p to 150p in what is an admittedly thin market.

The Inchcape shares themselves shot up 40p, for a close of 390p, with Unilever soaring no less than 26p to 486p in sympathy.

Other overseas traders well to the fore were James Finlay up 2p to 275p, Paterson Zochonis 20p to 200p, Gill & Duffus, also helped by bid talk and 13p to the good at 206p, and Rio Tinto Zinc with a gain of 7p to 213p.

Among the leading industrial shares there were double-figure gains from Glaxo 17p to 482p, ICI 15p to 355p, Fisons 12p to 350p, BAT Industries 12p to 265p and Beecham 10p to 444p.

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while other big-name engineers to rise strongly were GKN 233p and Tube Investments 396p, both 6p up.

Whesee defied the general emphasis on the big names with a rise of 9p to 78p.

A good demand for stores had Boots 8p better at 155p, Gus "A" up 7p to 216p, Marks & Spencer 6p to the good at 90p and House of Fraser also 6p better at 90p. But Burtex was unmoved at 78p and Woolworth gave up 23p to 56p.

Ahead of news of a Spanish order for its scanners, EMI were just 2p to the good at 216p, while in motors, Rover, Royce put on a couple of pence to 72p and Lucas, in spite of Leyland, rose 5p to 246p.

In the oil sector BP, another with figures this week, ended 20p higher at 884p, Shell went ahead another 11p to 520p after

last week's statement and Ultra-mar, also due for figures this week, closed 6p ahead at 160p.

In the financial sector insurance brokers were once again favoured with Heath up 10p to 567p, A. Howden 6p to 146p, Hogg Robinson 6p to 154p, and Matthews Wrightson 5p to 225p.

Some think that Jardine Matheson, 1p higher at 290p, rather than Inchcape, will emerge as the bidder for Gill and Duffus.

Equity turnover on March 11 was £90.89m (22,388 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were 101. GEC, Unilever, the stillers, BP, Shell, Gill & Duffus, BAT Dfd, GEC cap notes, Midland Bank, RTZ, Inchcape, Barratt Developments, Herbert Morris, FMC, James Finlay, H. Wigfall and Taylor Woodrow.

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Equity turnover on March 11 was £90.89m (2

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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES for 14.03.77 close
date June 2, 1964 original base date 1.12.59

	Index Latest	Div. Yield %	Earn. Index Yield %	Previous
The Times Industrial Share Index	374.43	8.33	11.37	317.51
Largest Corps.	373.43	6.31	10.53	313.99
Smaller Corps.	383.90	7.77	12.38	326.13
Capital Goods	371.34	6.96	12.52	309.28
Consumer Goods	375.54	7.49	10.20	315.58
State Shares	335.26	7.18	8.11	125.01
Largest financial shares	160.79	6.08	—	150.25
Largest financial and industrial shares	170.32	6.26	—	155.05
Commodity shares	210.70	4.75	11.21	212.95
Gold Mining shares	267.56	8.09	12.86	270.67
Industrial				
Chemicals stocks	86.89	7.00	—	86.38
Industrial				
Preference stocks	94.90	12.73	—	95.08
2½% War Loan	29.54	12.65	—	29.4

A record of the Times Industrial Share Indices is given below:—

	High	Low
1956	194.47 (11.08.57)	90.38 (12.12.70)
1957	174.42 (11.04.57)	102.29 (13.01.57)
1958	176.85 (08.05.57)	112.28 (24.05.58)
1959	195.60 (11.05.59)	124.28 (14.05.59)
1974	331.28 (28.05.74)	246.6 (13.12.74)
1975	348.13 (13.05.75)	288.28 (14.05.75)
1976	308.47 (10.02.76)	317.66 (04.05.76)

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W. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 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BIRTHS

TOURKIN—On March 8th at Whipsnade Zoo, Herts, a son (David) to Mr and Mrs Robert Tourkin, 127, The Grange, Herts.

TREBONING—On March 7th, a son (John) to Mr and Mrs Robert Treboning, 127, The Grange, Herts.

WANDER—On March 11th, a son (James) to Mr and Mrs Robert Wander, 127, The Grange, Herts.

WANDER—On March 11th, a son (James) to Mr and Mrs Robert Wander, 127, The Grange, Herts.

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DEATHS

GRANT—On March 13th, a son (David) to Mr and Mrs Robert Grant, 127, The Grange, Herts.

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGES 28 and 29

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE HELP US...

TO UNLOCK THE DOORS!

Fifty-five thousand of Britain's mentally handicapped are stranded in institutions that should never have been built. Tragically, fewer than 10% need to be in a hospital at all. The facts as presented in the Sunday Times column supplement bring home to us all the responsibilities we have in life to show love and compassion to those among us who through no fault of their own carry through life such a permanent burden.

Their future lies in the community in which the majority, given the right opportunities in education and hotel provision, could live their lives happily and usefully among us.

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In terms of humanity this is a national emergency of tragic proportion. The good people of Britain, as generous as they are in overseas disasters... now have one on their own doorstep.

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